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Daily Report

MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 APRIL 1987

Israel

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has sent a message to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres "expressing Soviet willingness in principle" to participate in an international conference on the Middle East and to improve political relations with Israel, *Hadashot* disclosed. The message was conveyed during Peres' 7 April meeting with Soviet representatives Karen Brutents and Aleksandr Zotov in Rome, the paper noted. Jerusalem radio said a blackout was imposed on the contents of the talks, but reported that Peres called the discussion "very serious." "This is merely the beginning, and should not be overrated," the foreign minister added.

Soviet representative Brutents commented on a possible international conference, saying "Israel cannot speak with all its neighbors; somebody must lead it to this," *Davar* reported. Brutents also felt that in the end, Israel would have to speak with the PLO. "I hope this is the beginning of a process, but the difficulties still remain. It is now up to Israel to take steps forward." he said.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq claimed to have foiled the start of Iran's "Karbala'-8" offensive as well as a fresh attack launched on 8 April, INA reported. The new attack, announced by Tehran radio, was made west of Fish Lake. IRNA said that the lake is under Iran's "full control," and that Iraqi attempts to retake positions failed. But according to a 7 April Iraqi military communique carried by INA, "fierce battles" were waged and "a great part" of Iran's foothold was purged. In a statement to INA, the Iraqi military spokesman announced that two Iranian F-5's were downed in the III Army Corps sector on 7 April. IRNA, citing an Iranian military source, denied the aircraft were shot down.

Egyptian Elections

Elections for the People's Assembly are expected to be repeated for approximately 50 percent of the seats allocated to independent candidates, a MENA report disclosed. Preliminary results received by the Ministry of Interior still show the National Democratic Party (NDP) in the lead, taking 75 to 80 percent of the valid votes counted thus far, MENA reported.

Rioting provoked by supporters of an independent candidate led to the arrest of 80 people in Kafr al-Dawwar, AFP reported citing *Al-Ahram*. Rioters stoned the local NDP offices and the town hall and vandalized vehicles, the paper said.

Lebanon

Syrian forces deployed around Shatila in a further effort to ease the Palestinian camps situation, Beirut radio reported. AFP noted the Syrians set up four observation posts and placed double security cordons around the four entrances to the camp to avoid clashes between Amal and Palestinian fighters.

The agency also reported that five trucks laden with arms for Amal militia, escorted by 20 Syrian troops, passed through Sidon on 8 April after having been turned back at the city's gates by the Popular Liberation Army the previous day. AFP noted that this was the first time since Israel's invasion of Lebanon that Syrian troops had entered Sidon.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi announced changes in the military service system during a 7 April speech carried by Tripoli television. As of this year, military service will be set for a specified period ranging from a week to several months, contrary to systems in other countries which require 2 to 3 years of service, the Libyan leader asserted. At the end of their term, the persons serving will be rotated, keeping the same number constantly on duty Al-Qadhdhafi explained.

Turning to the Gulf conflict, Al-Qadhdhafi underscored that Libya will make "effective moves to end this war," stressing that "nobody in the world wants this war to end except us." Affirming his stand with both Iraq and Iran, the Libyan leader urged the two states to unite and help Libya fight the common enemies of Zionism and imperialism.

Chadian Conflict

A Chadian military communique carried by Ndjamena radio reported that Libyan aircraft resumed bombing Ouadi Doum with "unprecedented intensity" on 7 April. Chadian forces retaliated and shot down a MiG-21 aircraft, the communique added.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

Middle East & Africa

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Preparations for PNC Dialogue Under Way

Meeting To Be Held 10 Apr

JN060848 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Apr (WAKH) Press reports here today said the date of the preparatory dialogue for the PNC session has been moved up to 10 April from 13 April, which had been fixed earlier, as a result of some important unscheduled engagements involving PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The newspaper *Al-Ittihad* cites a responsible Palestinian source in Amman as saying that invitations have been delivered to the 32 PNC members living in Jordan, including the PNC speaker and the members of its Executive Committee. Only two, attorney Ibrahim Bakr and Bahjat Abu Gharbiyah, refused to attend.

Libyan Aid Tied to PNC Meeting

JN071402 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 5 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] *Al-Ittihad* has learned that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has informed the heads of the Palestinian organizations which met in Tripoli recently that the financial support these groups receive from Libya will be linked to their participation in the coming PNC session. The Fatah Movement has given the document containing its decision to scrap the Amman agreement to the Libyan leader. The abrogation of the accord will be announced at the PNC session.

PPSF To Attend

JN052125 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] Following its meeting in Damascus this afternoon, the Central Committee of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF], which is led by Dr Samir Ghawshah, announced its decision to participate in the preparatory national dialogue in Algiers. That session will begin on 10 April in light of the guarantees given to friendly forces, and on the basis of the front's eagerness to restore PLO unity.

The PPSF said it links its participation in the PNC session to the comprehensive political and organizational agreement that will result from this dialogue.

Meetings 'Accelerating'

JN071524 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] The Palestinian meetings designed to prepare for comprehensive dialogue and a PNC session scheduled for 20 April are accelerating. While Yasir 'Arafat met yesterday evening with Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, DFLP assistant secretary general, and Na'im al-Ash'hab, member of the Political Bureau of the Palestinian Communist Party, as part of the efforts to prepare for the national dialogue in Algiers on 13 April and the PNC session on 20 April, DFLP Secretary General George Habash held a meeting with Fatah Central Committee Member Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] in Tunis. We have learned that this dialogue will pave the way for a more comprehensive dialogue with some other Palestinian factions.

In an exclusive statement to our radio, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, the DFLP's assistant secretary general, said the announcement by the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front and DFLP that they are joining the dialogue certainly means they will participate in the work of the PNC session. After all, the dialogue is intended to lay the groundwork for the convening of the PNC.

Al-Wazir, Habash Begin Talks

LD072125 Kuwait KUNA in English 1824 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, April 7 (KUNA) — Secretary General of the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) George Habash arrived here Tuesday and immediately went into talks with a top level delegation from the Fatah Movement, the PLO mainstream, Palestinians sources said. The Fatah delegation was headed by the movement's Central Committee Member Khalil al-Wazir as Habash was accompanied by a number of his aides.

The meeting here is in part of reconciliation talks which will extend on April 10 to group Fatah with the opposition groups. The reconciliation talks are expected to clear the way for a session of the Palestine National Council — the equivalent of parliament in exile — in Algiers on April 20, according to the sources.

Habash's PFLP has not decided yet whether or not it would take part in the new parliament session. In Tunis, similar talks were held last night between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, Assistant Secretary General of the Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and Politburo Member of the Palestinian Communist Party Na'im al-Ash'hab, [name as received] the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported.

The talks were also in preparation for the PNC session and the conferees agreed to the need for all Palestinian groups to joint efforts aimed at restoring the unity of the PLO, WAFA said.

Soviets To Attend PNC Meeting

LD031746 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1507 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 3 Apr (KUNA) — DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah conferred here today with the Soviet ambassador to Algeria on the arrangements being made for the PNC meeting on 20 April.

A statement issued here by the DFLP added:"Mr Hawatimah has invited the Soviet Union to attend the PNC session. The Soviet ambassador has affirmed that Moscow will send a high-level delegation and that his country backs any initiative to revive Arab solidarity."

It should be remembered that Moscow sponsored a national unity agreement between the Democratic Alliance and the Fatah Movement, and voiced its support for Algeria's initiative to restore PLO unity.

Mahmud 'Abbas Leads Delegation To Moscow
JN071730 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] WAFA has learned that a Palestinian delegation led by Brother Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Comittee, and comprising Brother Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, DFLP assistant secretary general, and Brother Salman Najjab, member of the Palestinian Communist Party Political Bureau, paid a 2-day visit to Moscow during which it held important talks with Soviet officials on the siege imposed around the Palestinian camps and the required move to lift that siege.

The two sides also discussed the PNC session and expressed their satisfaction with the current steps to convene its 18th meeting, as well as ongoing political moves for an international peace conference. The Soviets briefed the Palestinians on the outcome of Soviet contacts with the international parties concerned, especially the United States, Britain, and France. The Soviet side also stressed its support for the PLO, as well as its eagerness to have the PLO participate in the conference on an equal footing with the other parties. The Palestinian delegation thanked the Soviet officials for their principled position on the PLO.

Saudi Foreign Minister Al-Faysal Leaves Tunis
LD071754 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1345 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Tunis, 7 Apr (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, left Tunis this morning after chairing the meetings of the 87th session of the Arab League Council, which ended yesterday.

His highness was seen off at the airport by His Excellency Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League; the Kingdom's ambassador in Tunis, Ibrahim Sa'd al-Ibrahim; Tahir Radhwan, the Kingdom's permanent delegate to the Arab League; and a number of the staff of the Kingdom's Embassy in Tunis.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti foreign minister, met yesterday evening with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The meeting's participants reviewed current Arab affairs in general and the Palestinian question in particular.

Attending the meeting were the Kingdom's ambassador to Tunisia, Ibrahim Sa'd al-Ibrahim; Isma'il al-Shuri, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry; and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Tunisia Mirzan al-Hamad. The Palestinians were represented by Fatah Central Committee Members Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]; Faruq Qaddumi, chairman of the PLO's Political Department; and Hakam Bal'awi, director of the PLO office in Tunis.

Kuwait's Al-Jabir, Delegation Depart Tunis
LD071436 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1041 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Tunis, 7 Apr (KUNA) — The Kuwaiti prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, and the members of his delegation left here this morning after taking part in the meetings of the 87th Arab League Council, which concluded last night.

He was seen off at the airport by the Arab League secretary general, Chedli Klibi; the dozen of the diplomatic corps in Tunis; the Kuwaiti ambassador; and members of the Kuwaiti Embassy staff in Tunis.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir was also received by Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba before his departure.

After leaving Tunis, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told KUNA: "I was happy to meet with President Habib Bourguiba. I was carrying a message of greetings and appreciation to him, and he has also entrusted me with a message of affection and appreciation to his brother his highness the amir of Kuwait. I am very happy to see President Bourguiba in such good health, and I wish him success."

BAHRAIN

Foreign Minister on Gulf Navigation, Missiles

JN071718 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 5 Apr 87 p 23

[Interview with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah by *Al-Anba'* correspondent Ahmad Isma'il Bahbahani in Manama — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Bahbahani] What are your impressions of GGC achievements since its inception?

[Al Khalifah] The GCC march is now in its 6th year. Undoubtedly, the bases for the GCC were laid down in the past. The cooperation process has been continuous and unlimited. When the bases for the economic unity agreement, security and defense cooperation, and the region's foreign policy were laid down all bases for construction were laid down. Undoubtedly, we have made fair progress in the economic field, although it has not been as rapid as we wished. I mean that these steps enabled GCC citizens to own property, to engage in trade, and to move freely. All these factors constituted gains for the GCC.

In the field of defense, there is, for the first time, a common view held by the GCC countries. Now the world knows that there is collective work to defend the region. This also applies to the security field. As you know, the region is experiencing undesirable developments which have to be eliminated collectively. There is also cooperation in the cultural, educational, trade, and even sports fields. The GCC represents a continuous movement in the field of cooperation at all levels. The 6-year march is considered short when people and nations talk about their history. We are working together to write a new history for the region based on cooperation in a united region whose potentials interact. It is true that hopes and aspirations are great, but we should know that this can only be attained through assiduousness. [passage omitted]

[Bahbahani] There have been recent reports that the United States has offered to protect the oil tankers of the Gulf states. What do you say?

[Al Khalifah] I have been briefed on this issue and on what the papers have published. I know that countries importing oil from the Gulf states such as the United States and other countries, especially the permanent UN Security Council memebr states, including the Soviet Union, are eager to maintain freedom of navigation, the flow of oil, and freedom of trade. No country wants freedom of navigation in the Gulf to be threatened because the West and the East have interests, and international law and norms protect freedom of navigation.

I do not rule out that some countries in the world must or will work to protect freedom of navigation in the region and extend assistance to prevent any interference with freedom of navigation. I cannot speak about details; I am speaking about principles. I believe that freedom of navigation concerns the Gulf itself, but is also an international responsibility. All countries, especially those which have interests, should work with us to maintain freedom of navigation. The United States has offered this protection, and we welcome any country that is ready to offer such protection if it announces that it is against attacks on oil tankers and for freedom of navigation. We belive that such protection will be in the interest of the region.

[Bahbahani] The deployment of Iranian missles in the Hormuz Strait is considered a new threat to the region's countries and will undemine their economies. Is there any coordination on this issue?

[Al Khalifah] I believe that our position on this issue is clear and well known. The Hormuz Strait should remain open, and we are against any step to establish offensive, rather than defensive, military positions or to threaten freedom of navigation. We have decided that navigation shojld be free, and we are against any interference with this freedom. We hope that this issue will not develop further and harm the region's interests. As all our exports and imports pass through the strait, no one has the right to close it.

[Bahbahani] Egypt's return to the Arab fold is a necessity more than ever. What is your opinion?

[Al Khalifah] No one can distance Egypt from the Arab fold. Egypt is Arab land and the Egyptian people are Arabs. It is also one of the Arabs' main fortresses. The Arab homeland has gone through several political stages, foremost of which is Camp David, and it adopted positions in light of the Camp David accords. Undoubtedly, there have been many developments in the Arab world since these accords. [passage omitted]

KUWAIT

Al-Sabah Hopes Arab Summit Convoked Early

LD071750 Kuwait KUNA in English 1616 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Kuwait, April 7 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shayk's al-Ahmad al-Sabah today praised results reached by the Arab League ministerial council session, just ended in Tunis, and hoped that the results would contribute to overcoming obstacles faced by the Arab nation and pave the way before an early convocation of the long-delayed Arab summit.

In an airport statement here this evening on arrival from Tunis, where he led his country's delegation to the League council's 87th session concluded there last night, the Kuwaiti official said he has conveyed a verbal message to Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba from H.H. the amir and that he is carrying a reply message from the Tunisian head of state conveying fraternal wishes and greetings to the amir of Kuwait. Shaykh al-Sabah added that the League's session had tackled many important and urgent Arab questions facing the nation and praised 'the positive role played by chairman of the session, (Saudi Foreign Minister) Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and the common interest and response shown by all brothers' which had their favourable effect on enabling us to reach the desired results.

Hoping that the session's outcomes will contribute to overcoming the obstacles faced by the Arab nation, the official believed that

results reached would pave the way before holding an early Arab summit 'to which we attach great hopes in confronting dangers and challenges posed and in advancing the process of joint Arab action towards brighter horizons' matching the Arab peoples' aspirations and expectations. Shaykh Sabah wished in conclusion for success of all efforts aimed at the interest and well-being of the Arab nation. He was received on arrival at the airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, acting foreign undersecretary Faysal al-Muttawah and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd To Make 'Official Visit' to France

AU061801 Paris AFP in English 1726 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Paris, April 6 (AFP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia will make an official visit to France next April 15 and 16, at the invitation of President Francois Mitterrand, French official sources said. It is King Fahd's second visit to France since he became king in 1982. He made a short working trip to Paris in February 1984. Mr. Mitterrand went to Saudi Arabia in September 1981 for his first official trip abroad as French president. The visit comes against a background of fierce competition between France, West Germany, Italy, Britain and Sweden for a four-billion dollar contract to supply Saudi Arabia with between six and eight non-nuclear submarines and build a naval base in Jeddah.

Defense officials in Riyadh have said that the various bids have been examined and a decision should be announced soon by King Fahd. There have been reports here of divergences between French and Saudi officials over the degree of solemnity to give the king's visit. The Saudis are said to have preferred a brief "working trip" to spare King Fahd the official receptions, citing health reasons, but the French wanted to reciprocate Mr. Mitterrand's 1981 official visit.

Mali President Arrives for Minor Pilgrimage

LD072134 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1805 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 7 Apr (SPA) — His excellency Moussa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali, arrived in Jeddah this evening on a visit to the Kingdom for the minor pilgrimage. [passage omitted]

YAR

Salih on Arab Relations, Economy

JN072007 Kuwaiti AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 6 Apr 87 pp 20, 21

[Interview with YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* owner 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Masa'id in Sanaa — date not given]

[Text] [Al-Masa'id] Foreign and Arab newspapers have reported that border clashes took place between the YAR and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia rebutted this and said all this was pure slander. What really took place?

[Salih] There were no clashes because the Arab land is an indivisible whole. There are no differences among brothers. If something takes place, it will be settled in a fraternal manner and as dictated by the unique relationship which exists between our country and Saudi Arabia.

[Al-Masa'id] The YAR recently experienced an acute economic crisis and you went to the brothers for assistance. The rescue came from distant brothers. How do you explain this?

[Salih] The economic crisis the country has experienced is a summer cloud and not an irremediable one. We are trying to tackle this economic crisis. We can say that many Arab and foreign countries are also experiencing similar crises. It has an international aspect. The Gulf war is also one of its causes, not to mention the decrease in the remittances of expatriates which effectively contribute to the process of development. Regarding assistance, there are projects being implemented by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and GCC countries in general.

It is true that we asked all our brothers in the GCC for some facilities in specific fields. We also paid an official visit to a fraternal country at the brothers' invitation to discuss urgent pan-Arab causes which are more important than bilateral relations, particularly the Gulf war and the dangers that engulf that country [Iraq], the aggressions against Lebanon, and the other conspiracies against the Arab nation. The country I visited offers our country facilities in many fields, including oil. We also obtain similar facilities from many GCC countries, from friendly EEC countries, as well as from the USSR and the United States.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, do you believe that the disappearance of the dollar and other commodities, such as wheat, from the market is a coincidence, or is there a party seeking to undermine the YAR's economy in preparation for political disturbances?

[Salih] As I have said, the crisis we have experienced is a summer cloud. However, we cannot rule out the possibility that there are hostile forces, perhaps international forces, that are playing this role in view of our strategic location on the eastern side of the Arabian peninsula. Our people have taken all this into account and have made arrangements to confront it.

[Al-Masa'id] What about the situation with the brothers in the southern part? What are the latest results of the Kuwaiti mediation in this respect?

[Salih] The issue in the southern part is a domestic problem that concerns the southern part alone. The Kuwaiti mediation is not a mediation between the north and south. It is a mediation among the brothers in the southern part of the homeland themselves. We believe that Kuwait's efforts are fruitful and a good herald. We will sense its results in the future. Our efforts coincide with Kuwait's efforts to settle this problem in a fraternal way.

[Al-Masa'id] What will happen if the southerners reject any mediation?

[Salih] We believe that there is a solution to any problem. We pin great hopes on Kuwait's role in light of the position Kuwait — leadership, government, and people — enjoys among Arabs, particularly among the Yemeni people in the two parts of the homeland. This will help make these efforts a success.

[Al-Masa'id] In fact, if the crisis remains unsolved it will affect you here because the refugees are considered a heavy burden on the North Yemeni economy.

[Salih] This is our destiny. The refugees are the sons of our people. We do not consider them guests as some people believe. They are in their homeland. They are our brothers. We are the sons of one community; That is Yemen. It is our duty to use development allocations to solve the problem of the refugees so that the sedition will not continue to exist.

[Al-Masa'id] Regarding support for Iraq in confronting the Iranian aggressions, why have only Yemen and Egypt implemented the Arab League Charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact?

[Salih] Earlier, we announced that we abide by the Collective Arab Defense Pact with Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Lebanon Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, Libya, and any Arab country whose security and sovereignty is endangered. We believe in this, and our pan-Arab duty dictates it to us. We must stand beside our brothers. Each Arab country might have its own interpretation of the defense pact. Many interpretations would exacerbate the problem. If all Arab countries had abided by these agreements the problem of the war would have been resolved many years ago.

[Al-Masa'id] You have answered a question we wanted to ask. If the GCC countries faced a danger you would then adopt the same stand?

[Salih] Undoubtedly. All our potential and resources are at the disposal of the GCC countries.

[Al-Masa'id] How do you assess your relations with Egypt?

[Salih] Yemen's relations with Egypt are special and historic. They were baptized by the blood which flowed on Yemeni territory in defense of the glorious 26 September revolution. Our people cannot forget that favor from the Egyptian people. We rejected the Camp David accords because they have given nothing to the Palestinian Arab people.

[Al-Masa'id] In their statements PLO officials have called for the Arab countries' resumption of diplomatic relations with Egypt. It is their cause and yet they call for this.

[Salih] The Baghdad summit resolutions were adopted for the sake of the Palestinian cause. There is no doubt that the Palestinians are the ones most concerned, and they have their own opinions. Howver, we are not for any separate solutions. We believe that the problem must be solved within the Arab League. We do not seek to resume relations with Egypt and then sever relations with more than one country.

[Al-Masa'id] Regarding relations with the Palestinian brothers, is there a plan to move PLO Headquarters to Sanaa?

[Salih] We have not heard about this and no one had asked us about it.

[Al-Masa'id] If you are asked, what would you do?

[Salih] We have no objection to it.

[Al-Masa'id] It is said that there are Israeli threats to Yemen and that Israeli planes repeatedly fly over the region.

[Salih] It is wrong for any Arab country to believe that it is distant from the Israeli aggression. The entire Arab nation is being threatened by Israel. We are like the other Arab countries, but we are not fightened by what Israel says about Yemen. Israel raided PLO headquarters in Tunisia and the nuclear reactor in Iraq. It also attacks Lebanon every day. All the Arab countries are considered targets for Israel's aggressions, whether they are confrontation states or not. Those who believe they are distant from Israel's aggression will certainly be mistaken.

[Al-Masa'id] Can we know if there are air defense forces on the Red Sea, especially since some people say that the Soviet Union has refused to take its missiles out of Sanaa?

[Salih] This is groundless. The Soviet Union does not interfere in Yemen's domestic affairs. We purchase weapons from the Soviet Union just as we purchase them from the European countries and the United States. Once these Soviet, Western, or Eastern weapons are brought to Yemen they become Yemeni, and we have the right to deploy them anywhere in accordance with our interests. It is not true that the Soviet Union has refused to deploy the Yemeni-owned air defense or defense missiles on the Red Sea.

[Al-Masa'id] Brother President, your visit to Washington has been postponed several times. Why?

[Salih] For domestic reasons and commitments. I received an invitation from President Reagan. I accepted it and planned to pay the visit. I will make that visit but at the appropriate time.

[Al-Masa'id] Your Excellency the President, regarding the differences between Syria and Iraq, did you think about mediating between them to achieve a reconciliation?

[Salih] Our efforts began during the first conference held in Tunis following the Arab League's move there. At that time, I mediated between Brother President Saddam Husayn and Brother President Hafiz al-Asad to contain the problem. Since then, our efforts have been continuing side by side with our brothers' efforts. We continue our efforts and use our private relations with the brothers in Iraq and Syria to solve the current dispute between the two fraternal countries. Undoubtedly, other Arab countries are trying to contain the problem. We will continue to do our best to contain it. We are optimistic, especially since matters are becoming clear and there are better initiatives to solve this problem between the two countries.

[Al-Masa'id] Some news agencies distorted your recent

statement on Yemen and the GCC. It appeared in the press, and some papers said that Yemen wants to join the GCC. Will you please clarify this point?

[Salih] What I said to the press was that the GCC is an advanced step toward achieving Arab unity, and that we support this regional Arab grouping. Nobody asked us to join the GCC and we did not ask for it. If we are asked to join the GCC, we will agree. This is what I said. We give our blessing to this regional grouping because we consider it a step toward achieving Arab unity. We will joint the GCC if we are asked to do so.

[Al-Masa'id] The YAR has played a mediating role between Syria and the PLO. Is it continuing or has it ended?

[Salih] We haven't stopped trying. We are seeking to bring unity to PLO ranks and to end differences within the PLO. We are also seeking to reconcile our PLO and Syrian brothers. We think our PLO brothers do not stand to gain anything from their disagreement with our Syrian brothers.

[Al-Masa'id] But hasn't Damascus agreed.. ?

[Salih] We have tried and will continue to do so in order to contain the crisis which can only serve the interests of the enemies of the Arab nation. I am optimistic there will be a breakthrough. Both sides must sort out their marginal differences. Neither side has an interest in continuing disagreement.

[Al-Masa'id] How do you see things developing with regard to the Mideast question?

[Salih] We believe that short of a solution to the Palestinian people's problem a breakthrough will remain unattainable. The major powers have their vested interests, and they use developing nations to further them. If a just solution is to be found to the Mideast problem, the Arabs will have to invest their resources in concert with the European nations, the United States, and the Soviet Union.

[Al-Masa'id] What is the latest on gas finds in the YAR's territorial waters in the Red Sea? Is it true that huge quantities have been found?

[Salih] Prospecting in the Red Sea is not confined to gas. We are also looking for oil. The reports sent in by the companies prospecting for gas and oil are encouraging. Surveys have not been completed, however. The early signs point to the existence of mineral wealth. As to the quantities and when it will be brought out this should be known by year's end, when the drilling of the last well will have been completed.

[Al-Masa'id] The amount of potential oil exports first announced was 400,000 barrles per day. Recently you mentioned the figure 100,000. How do you account for this discrepancy?

[Salih] The production capacity of the pipe is 400,000 barrles. We estimate that initially we will export from 150,000 to 200,000 barrles. The figures should go up gradually in proportion to the pace of developing the fields.

[Al-Masa'id] Exclusive of local consumption?

[Salih] Yes, exclusive of local consumption.

[Al-Masa'id] When do you expect the first oil consignment to be exported?

[Salih] In November 1987.

[Al-Masa'id] What is the YAR's oil consumption?

[Salih] Forty to 45,000 barrels per day.

[Al-Masa'id] Will gas be exported in the initial stage?

[Salih] When we begin exporting oil, we will also begin to liquify gas to meet the home requirements, rather than leave it to burn. A study is in progress on how best to exploit the gas commercially, given that it is present in commercial quantities, thank God.

[Al-Masa'id] In their geological surveys, have companies discovered anything other than oil?

[Salih] There are studies to exploit some minerals which have been discovered, but at present we are focusing on oil because the exploitation of the other minerals such as copper, zinc, silver, or iron needs large sums of money and is very costly.

[Al-Masa'id] There has been quite a stir about the discovery of oil, and perhaps it has been blown out of proportion. If the YAR starts exporting its oil, do you believe that this will be a reason or one of the reasons for suspending assistance to the YAR since it will have become an oil country?

[Salih] We aspire to self-sufficiency and dependence on ourselves. However, this does not mean that we will dispense with our brothers or with the friendly countries, nor can we do without the facilities they give our people to achieve the development objectives in accordance with bilateral relations and joint cooperation.

[Al-Masa'id] Do you believe that the return of Yemeni expatriates to the homeland after the discovery of oil in the country will constitute a problem or a burden to the Yemeni economy?

[Salih] There is no doubt that the expatriates' desire is to return to their homeland after the discovery of oil. The fact is that many of them come to visit their homeland. They can see signs of development and job opportunities in the homeland. If any of them finds a suitable job he will stay at home. The Yemeni people love their homeland and they are very loyal to their land. They will never become a burden to their homeland because they fully understand this homeland. We hope and we struggle so that the expatriates will settle down in their homeland. We also strive and search to discover the resources which will benefit our people, especially the expatriates.

[Al-Masa'id] Have the costs of the 5-year development plan been estimated on the basis of the prospective oil revenue or on the basis of the present resources?

[Salih] You can ask the brothers in the government about this. The study of the third 5-year development plan has not been completed yet. Naturally, the study will take into consideration future accounts in addition to existing ones.

[Al-Masa'id] On the silver jubilee of the revolution, what do you say to the Yemenis who are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the revolution?

[Salih] The 25th anniversary of the revolution is a great national occasion and an important turning point in the lives of our people. On this occasion, the victory of our people is entrenched. Nothing threatens the glorious march of our people. We congratulate our people inside and outside the homeland on this occasion for the gains achieved. The great and basic gain is the victory of the people over the imamte era of backwardness, ignorance, and disease which we inherited from the defunct age.

The democratic and development gains are the result of the people's struggle. More gains will be made thanks to the cohesion of all nationalist forces inside and outside. This is what I want to say as we cleberate this occasion when we have completed 25 years of great victory.

USSR Envoy Sytenko Makes Statement, Departs

JN071423 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Mikhail Sytenko, envoy of the USSR leadership, has left Sanaa after a 3-day visit to our country during which he delivered a letter from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to Brother President 'Ali Abdallah Salih, Speaking to SABA', Sytenko said his talks with both President Salih and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister were extremely useful.

The two sides, he added, familiarized themselves with each other's thinking on international and regional issues. He noted there was a similarity of views on the major issues which came up for discussion. The Soviet official pronounced himself satisfied with the outcome of his talks in Sanaa.

On hand to see him off at the airport were Brother 'Abdallah Dahhan, assistant under secretary of the Foreign Ministry; an official of presidential protocol; and the Soviet ambassador in Sanaa.

Voting in Parliamentary Elections Completed

Dates for Results Cited

NC071139 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Brigadier General Ahmad Rasikh, assistant interior minister and head of the General Department for Elections, said today that election returns will be announced as they become available. Winners of individual seats in the People's Assembly are expected to be known tonight, he noted, while names of successful candidates on party lists will be announced the day after tomorrow, Thursday.

Preliminary Results Reported

NC080529 Paris AFP in English 0502 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, April 8 (AFP) — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's National Democratic Party (NDP) looks set to romp home with 75 to 80 per cent of the vote after Monday's elections to the People's Assembly, the Cairo press said Wednesday.

First results showed that the NDP's closest rivals, an alliance between two registered parties, Socialist Action and the Liberals, and the unofficial Moslem Brotherhood, could muster only 15 per cent, leaving the last parliament's official centre-right opposition, Neo-Wafd, in third place.

Reports said the Marxist Progressive Unionist Party (PUP) and the Moslem Al-Ummah Party were well short of the eight per cent they needed to win seats in the next parliament.

Six NDP ministers have already secured their seats, the press said, adding that PUP Chairman Khalid Muhyi al-Din and senior official Lutfi Wakid were in a strong position.

Reports said Neo-Wafd leader Mumtaz Nasir had been re-elected. There will be a second round of polling on Monday if voting between independents is close — 48 of the 448 parliamentary seats are reserved for independents.

Interior Ministry sources quoted in the press put the turnout at 50 per cent and 30 per cent in Cairo. Egypt has some 15 million voters.

The daily *Al-Ahram* reported Wednesday that 80 people had been arrested at Kafr al-Dawwar, near Alexandria in the Nile Delta, for rioting provoked by supporters of an independent candidate.

The paper said rioters stoned the local NDP offices and the town hall, burned vehicles, and broke the windows of two buses, three police cars and two trains. Riot squads broke up the disturbances, the paper said. [passage omitted]

New Wafd Leader Comments

NC071120 Paris AFP in English 1039 GMT 7 Apr 87

[By Michel Garin]

[Excerpt] Cairo, April 7 (AFP) — Egypt's parliamentary elections held Monday were marred by violence, the arrest of several hundred Moslem extremists and a low turnout, while politicians traded accusations of fraud and harassment on Tuesday.

The semi-official newspaper *Al-Ahram* said that at least eight people were injured in fighting between political opponents at Al-Mansurah, in the Nile delta.

The deputy leader of the New Wafd right-wing liberal opposition party, Wahid Rif'at accused police anti-riot squads of injuring three people in clashes at several polling stations. One of the wounded lost an eye, he said. New Wafd leader Ibrahim Faraj said that the elections were "the worst in Egypt's history".

The party's newspaper, *Al-Wafd* said police opened fire in several villages to threaten New Wafd supporters.

Although the first official results were not expected until Wednesday, *Al-Ahram* said that President Husni Mubarak's National Democratic Party (NDP) had won a "clear victory" in the elections for the early renewal of the People's Assembly.

Al-Ahram, which on Monday reported the arrest of 500 "religious extremists" allegedly planning to stir up trouble, also accused members of the opposition Socialist Action Party and the Liberals and the Moslem Brotherhood, which is not legal but tolerated — of having set fire to ballot boxes at several voting centers.

These were the second national elections held since Mr. Mubarak came to power following the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat, on October 6, 1981. [passage omitted]

Runoffs Expected

NC072150 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 7 Apr (MENA) — MENA has learned that elections for the People's Assembly are expected to be repeated for approximately 50 percent of the [48] seats allocated to independent candidates.

In another development, Muhammad Marzuq, the Socialist Labor Party candidate in the Kafr al-Dawwar area of Al-Buhayrah Governorate, attacked a polling center in an attempt to damage the ballot boxes after learning that the results of the voting were not in his favor.

The security forces intervened and arrested Marzuq and four of his assistants.

Commentary Lauds 'Huge Turnout'

NC071450 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Ahmad al-Qasir commentary: "The Egyptian People Impose Their Will in Support of the March of Democracy and Stability"]

[Excerpts] The entire civilized world watched with admiration as a pioneering democratic experiment got under way in Egypt recently. Undoubtedly, this admiration and appreciation doubled yesterday as the world, through foreign correspondents and journalists, saw millions of Egyptians going to the polls to cast their ballots to elect the best candidates to represent them in the new People's Assembly.

In our opinion, this huge turnout goes to show that the Egyptian people are eager to participate in a practical way in strengthening the march of stability and democracy and in achieving economic and social development. At the same time, it affirms the Egyptian people's confidence and faith in sincere national action seriously undertaken in support of the true march of democracy in Egypt, which has nothing to do with false slogans and unconvincing promises.

The high turnout in yesterday's elections was a positive development in Egypt's parliamentary history. It is equally true to say that the free atmosphere in which the elections were conducted was undoubtedly a landmark in voting for the People's Assembly. All legal guarantees were provided, and there was no attempt to coerce the people or prevent them from exercising their free will. [passage omitted]

The will of the Egyptian people, expressed by the votes of millions at the polling stations, has made itself felt. The Egyptian people have raised their voices high on the side of stability, without which there can be neither democracy nor economic development. By their high turnout, the Egyptian people have proved they are fully aware of the gravity of the historic phase through which Egypt is currently passing. This is all the more important, given the fact we are on the threshold of the second 5-year development plan due to begin in July. It comes in the wake of the first plan, the objectives of which were successfully achieved. [passage omitted]

Communiques, Reports Detail 6-8 Apr Fighting

Communique No 2,631

JN071644 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1620 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Communique No 2,631 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 April 1987]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force today carried out 133 combat missions and destroyed the targets mentioned in Communique No 2,630 issued at noon today. Through these heroic missions, our Air Force gave the greatest support to our ground units while dealing devastating and painful blows to enemy remnants and destroying enemy assembly points, positions, weapons, and equipment. After carrying out all these missions, our planes returned safely to base in God's care.

2. The valiant helicopter knights, as usual, played their heroic role on this great day, giving the best support to our ground units while destroying enemy remnants during 114 combat sorties. In these sorties our knights inflicted heavy losses on the Khomeyniite clique's scoundrels. They also achieved the following: the destruction of 20 vehicles, 67 positions, 5 armored personnel carriers, 7 boats, 1 tank, and 1 106-mm gun. After carrying out their missions, our knights returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector blew up four ammunition dumps, destroyed a bulldozer, one machine gun, two vehicles, and four infantry positions, and killed five enemy personnel.

4. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, one enemy soldier was killed and two observation posts and one ammunition dump were destroyed.

5. Two enemy soldiers were killed and two enemy positions were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. The criminal Zionist enemy shelled residential areas in the steadfast city of Basra. As a result, civilian property and houses were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 April 1987

Military Denies Plane Downed

JN071342 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Apr (INA) -- Iraq has denied Iranian claims on downing an Iraqi plane today. In a statement to INA today, an Iraqi military spokesman described the claims as part of the lies which the Iranian regime uses and through which it is trying to hide its failures.

2 Iranian F-5's Shot Down

JN080759 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
0746 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Iraqi military spokesman's statement, dated 8 April 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1230 yesterday, our antiaircraft defenses downed an enemy F-5 plane in the heroic III Army Corp sector. At 1640 yesterday, another enemy F-5 penetrated our international border in the same sector. Our antiaircraft defenses confronted it and downed it. The two planes were seen by our forward units falling inside Iranian territory. Blessed be the brave men of our antiaircraft defenses. God be praised for His victory.

[Dated] 8 April 1987.

Communique No 2,632

JN071853 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1750 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Communique No 2,632 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 April 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God is great, God is great, God is great. Praise be to God for His victory day and night. O glorious Iraqis, the sons of our Arab nation. O brave men on the frontlines of our brave Armed Forces. While you are celebrating the 40th anniversary of your great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the vanguard of the nation in its struggle, the heir of its glories, and the struggler to achieve its objectives and great mission, God wants to double our joy and delight us by giving us victory over our enemies -- crushing their desperate and reckless attempts by destroying thousands of their scoundrals, by smashing their war machine, and by giving the shining example that this anti-Arab clique, which receives orders from Zionism, cannot encroach on Iraq's loftiness despite its attempts, methods, and remnants.

O citizens, the Zionist-Khomeyniite regime, which tries every now and then to penetrate the solid wall which our men built with enlightened minds, persistent work, and bravery, tried to polish its ugly face after it was doomed to failure in the year of decisiveness. At 0300 today [2300 GMT on 6 April], the enemy carried out a large-scale offensive on the fronts of three divisions -- the brave Quatybah Forces, the brave Al-Muthanna Forces, and the brave Muhammad al-Qasim Forces. While the enemy forces were completely annihilated on the Quatybah Forces front without succeeding in getting close to our forward positions, the enemy was able to gain a foothold on the Al-Muthanna Forces and the Muhammad al-Qasim Forces fronts.

Fierce battles were fought this morning and throughout today. As you know, Iraq's men poured their rage on the enemy heads. The brave hawks of the sky and the brave helicopter knights poured their rage on the enemy heads, and the brave artillery dealt devastating blows. The brave infantry men, the shock troops, and the armored units men sent the enemy troops to death, turning the enemy waves into burnt bodies. With God's help, our forces purged all enemy footholds on the Al-Muthanna

Forces front and the situation was completely and finally settled in our favor.

On the Muhammad al-Qasim Forces front, our forces were able to smash the enemy offensive and to expel the enemy from the positions it occupied. A great part of the foothold in which the enemy was present was purged. Only some areas have not yet been purged. Our forces continue to destroy the remnants of the enemy forces in these areas. Our forces are continuously launching offensives on the enemy to expel it, with God's help.

Thus, the enemy offensive, which coincides with our people's celebrations and attempts to disturb the occasion and polish the enemy's ugly face after its big failure in the year of decisiveness, has also failed. The enemy will drink another cup of bitter defeat.

O lofty Iraqis, these are the men of Iraq and the men of leader Saddam Husayn. Who are as brave and as heroic as these men? The Iraqis will continue to be delighted, and joy will continue to dwell in this great country and in its sons' hearts. God is great. Accursed be the lowly.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 April 1987

New Iranian Offensive Stopped

JN080714 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0656 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Apr (INA) -- An INA war correspondent in the southern operations sector has stressed that the Iraqi forces foiled another Iranian offensive early this morning.

In an urgent telephone dispatch to INA headquarters, the correspondent said that the Iranian forces sustained heavy losses and lost large numbers of dead and wounded during this new aggression. He added that the bodies of the dead or wounded Iranians were left dismembered in no-man's-land.

The correspondent added that not one of the attacking Iranian force survived except those who were captured or fled, chased by intense fire from light, medium, and heavy weapons. The correspondent said that the situation has been completely settled in favor of the Iraqi forces which enjoy tremendous vitality and unparalleled ability to crush any new aggressive attempt by the Iranian rulers.

UN Told of Iran's Shelling of Residential Areas

JN031741 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] United Nations, 3 Apr (INA) -- Iraq has informed the UN Security Council that Iran has continued to shell residential areas in the city of Basra in southern Iraq. The message which 'Isam Kittani, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations, handed to UN Security General Javier Perez de Cuellar yesterday discloses the details of material losses at civilian installations as a result of the Iranian shelling of residential areas in Basra on 18, 19, 24, 27, 28, and 29 March.

'Aflaq Address on Ba'th Party 40th Anniversary

JN071001 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Speech by Michel 'Aflaq, founder and secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, on the 40th anniversary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party on 6 April; place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Brother strugglers, sons of our glorious Arab nation, sons of our great Iraqi people. The 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party comes at a time when Iraq is adding to its past victories throughout 7 years of war a new victory, that is the outcome of all the years of the war. The Iraqis see in such a victory a vivid embodiment of the great degree of capability they have achieved, a capability that has doubled their self-confidence, deepened their awareness of the civilized, qualitative change which they achieved, and decisively and firmly consolidated their victory in their own eyes, in the eyes of the Arab nation, and in the eyes of the world.

It is a historic transformation in the life of Iraq and the Arab nation and in Arab destiny. Its effect on the world will be commensurate with the influence and weight of Iraq and the Arab nation at present and in the future. Iraq stood fast and triumphed in the recent fighting east of Al-Basrah that lasted more than 2 months. This is considered one of the biggest battles ever in the history of war in terms of its ferocity, the number of troops involved, and the types of sophisticated, lethal weapons supplied to the enemy by the United States and the Zionist entity to settle the war in Iran's favor.

Iraq achieved a great victory and destroyed the Iranian war machine, rendering it completely impotent. Iraq has foiled Zionist and imperialist plots and designs. It is a victory that heralds a new era for the Arab nation in which it regains its control over its destiny, now that it has staved great dangers to the Arab nation and set an eloquent example in steadfastness and ability and opened for the Arab nation the path of a promising future -- thanks to its generous sacrifices, rare courage, and outstanding heroism. [passage omitted]

O sons of our Arab people. The history of 40 years of national struggle requires us to view the party's past, its march so far, and the main stages the march has crossed, and to view the principal ideas put forward by the party as part of its new and integrated vision of Arab life. The most important of these concepts are nationalism, Arabism's relationship with Islam, and the party's new view of unity with its revolutionary content, represented by freedom and socialism.

The party takes great pride in its concept of Arab nationalism, Islam, and its organic relationship with Arabism. The party views Islam according to the Arab concept as the national culture unifying Arabs of various religions and sects. The party believes that Islam's humanitarian principles and moral and civilized values are the spirit of Arabism and its constant source of inspiration. It is an enlightened, scientific view of the party. Above all, the Ba'th party is the party of Arabism and the party of Islam. The party's experience in Iraq has expressed these matters vividly and heroically, especially during the war. [passage omitted]

Khomeyni, who claims to be determined to destroy Israel, is being supplied with arms by Israel in his aggression against Iraq. Israel is supplying arms to the one who claims he will liberate Jerusalem. Khomeyni's attempt to provoke a contradiction between Arabism and Islam was bound to fail, and his regime was bound to end in such a scandal. The role of the Arab regimes cooperating with Iran -- which were aware of the arms deals between Iran and Israel before they became known -- was bound to be exposed.

Iraq was bound to triumph because it is facing aggression with the strength of principles and with the spirit of Arabism and Islam, and because Iraq's war is the war of the Arab renaissance, the Arab revolution, and the party's half a century of struggle. This historic and revolutionary heritage, Arab history, the principles of the mission, and history of propagating the message were all present in Iraq's war. Also present in the war were all the experiences of the struggle: The battles against colonialism, 'Abd al-Nasir's experience, the Algerian revolution, and the Palestinian struggle.

A war into which all these tributaries pour and which embodies all such experiences and is inspired by them, is qualified to be the beginning of a civilized, humane, Arab future, and provides the pillars for building such a future. It was bound to bring about the exposure of the Zionist-Iranian-U.S. plot and cooperation, and to become known to the entire world not only as a news item but also as a major moral issue -- the issue of the Arab nation in its struggle for liberation and unity against fierce and mighty forces brought together by their plotting against the Arab nation's unity and awakening, a unity and awakening that constitute a threat to the imperialist policies of aggression that act with the logic of conquest, usurpation, and expansion. There is also the fear that the Arab mission, with its moral values and wide scope, will be renewed when the Arab nation is able to control its destiny and unite its homeland.

The United States claims neutrality in the Gulf war and publicly calls for ending it. Then it becomes clear that it is not a neutral party and that it gives weapons to those who perpetrate terrorism. It wants the war to continue in order to serve its interests, as well as those of the Zionist entity.

What lesson can one draw other than the need to be vigilant in the face of the terrible plot and its threats and to search for unity and solidarity in its strongest and deepest sense, and to harness national capabilities and mobilize national zeal.

The representatives of the imperialist Western world -- the world that produced Zionism, planted the usurping Zionist entity, and dispersed the Palestinian people, and that has been seeking for more than a century to suppress the Arab people, dismember their homeland, and sow sedition among their sects, just as it has been doing in other places and continents that have suffered, and some are still suffering, from the evils of Western imperialism -- are still ignoring the fact that from the very beginning of the war to the present, Iraq has had to defend itself in every sense of the word. This fact, which these circles in cooperation with Zionism are seeking to obliterate, is one of the most important factors in Iraq's steadfastness and triumph throughout 7 years of a gruelling war -- during which it became clear to all that various world and local forces opposed to the Arab nation are fighting alongside Iran to defeat Iraq.

The secret of Iraq's steadfastness is the firm belief of the entire Iraqi people that they are repulsing an unjust aggression and are defending national, pan-Arab, humanitarian, and spiritual values worthy of such a heroic defense and all the sacrifices it entails.

Iraq has been offering peace from the very beginning of the war to the present, for it was compelled to enter the war and has no ambitions toward the territory of others and does not intend to export its revolution to them. Iraq is a natural part of the Arab nation which for more than a century has been defending its survival, nationalism, and territory, and struggling for the unity of its divided and fragmented existence.

Although the Muslim world has been blamed for not using all its influence to stop the destructive war, and the Arabs are criticized because they were not united with Iraq and were not as effective as they should have been, the imperialist and Zionist forces and their plots are not divorced from such an aberration in the Arab and Muslim stand. This is because Western hegemony and its Zionist extension are responsible to a great extent for such contradictions and for the obstacles that prevent a natural response to the call of solidarity and defense of [Arab] survival and destiny. A great deal of the responsibility falls upon these external powers, because they did not shrink from fanning the flames of the war throughout the past years and standing by to watch the devastation and the death of hundreds of thousands to safeguard their material interests and achieve their aim of imposing their influence and domination.

The scandal was known before it was exposed: Namely,that Khomeyni, in cahoots with Israel, is against the Arab nation and against Arab Iraq, and is out to destroy the strong and modern Arab Army of Iraq and Iraqi's renaissance. Khomeyni has repeated what the Shah had done and embroiled Iran in hostility toward the Arabs. We do not want to believe that this is Iran's irresistable destiny. We hope that after all the woes it suffered under its regime, woes unprecedented in its history, Iran will pursue a new course after the war, and that all the tribulations and human sufferings will produce forces, minds, and wills that will put a complete end to such a phenomenon; so that the peoples of Iran can build with the Arab nation, and the other Muslim peoples, sound relations of cooperation and solidarity in the face of their common enemies and for the sake of the security and happiness of these peoples. Arab nationalism is a basic, leading force that serves Islam, and destroying it would be a blow to the very interests of Islam.

The lessons from the scandalous plot learned by the Arabs should be directed toward two objectives: First, the search for unity and solidarity, above all a healthy solidarity, whose bases and aims are clear, a solidarity that is open to the supervision of the broad masses and that is free of any aberrations and malaise. The second urgent objective is democracy. If there were conditions for the exercise of a genuine democracy in the Arab countries, the first expression of free will and the principal demand by the masses of the Arab people would be Arab unity in which Iraq, the Palestinian resistance, and Egypt would have a leading role.

The will for unity in the conscience of the Arab people means the will for steadfastness, and confidence in the nation's capability exists when there is unity or any formula close to unity that provides such steadfastness with all its needs. [passage omitted]

We are not responsible for Iran or for the way Khomeyni came to power and was able to throw in the human waves, hundreds of thousands, to die in the war. However, the state of the regimes that claim to be Arab concerns us -- the way they came to power, and stayed in power, and were able to carry out unprecedented acts of destruction. It is the absence of the masses from the arena of national and pan- Arab struggle that has allowed the creation and perpetuation of regimes that stifle the voice of the people and harm the people and their basic causes. [passage omitted]

Following the exposure of the anti-Arab [Shu'ubi] and conspiratorial stand of such regimes there, is no longer any excuse for being deceived by such regimes or to succor them. The state of silent condemnation that has been imposed upon the masses of the Arab nation is no longer permissible. Today, all hope is pinned up the struggling masses, thatthey will come forward and end the tragedy, and regain the dignity and national role that has been obstructed, the progressive role that has been distorted, and the historic role that has been usurped. [passage omitted]

The Arab nation has been in a state of self-defense ever since its awakening. This is the fact on which the Ba'th Party based its revolutionary and cultural view of history. The forces of Western imperialism, with covetous ambitions on the Arab nation's territory and wealth, have used the creation of divisions and feuds as one of their most important instruments to achieve their objectives in the Arab homeland, resorting to all possible means and provoking sectarian, tribal, and racial antagonisms within the Arab homeland, and encouraging the ambitions of countries neighboring the Arab homeland, in order to revive historic complexes and differences.

The Arab nation does not need to embark on a course of expansion or commit aggression against others. Its principles forbid it from doing so. However, the Arab nation needs to cooperate with other peoples and with all the good forces among other peoples, because this will help it to complete its liberation and liberate parts of its homeland, unite such parts, and develop its society. [passage omitted]

The weakness of the Arab situation was one of the causes and pretexts which made it easy for Al-Sadat to embroil himself and to forfeit the rights of Egypt and the Arab nation. However, at the same time we realize that Egypt's pan-Arab role requires it to view with optimism Arab capabilities when they emerge in the future, and Egypt is required to make a great contribution toward the making of such a future. The causes for optimism and faith and the manifestations of sound health, heroism, and steadfastness now exist and are clear, and indicate that the factors of sound health will overcome the factors of disease.

We proceed from our feeling that we are trying sincerely and honestly to understand Egypt's circumstances and to know what it can do now and in the future. We do not embarrass it byasking it to do more than its circumstances allow.

It is not difficult for Arab strugglers to understand that Egypt is facing compelling circumstances and that it is forced to deal with such circumstances with wisdom and patience. For they have confidence in the ability of Egypt and its people to overcome the extraordinary compelling circumstances and constraints imposed by the United States and the Zionist entity, and have confidence that, thanks to its awareness and nationalism and the joining of its efforts with the efforts of all the patriotic Arab forces, Egypt is capable of preventing the perpetuation and spreading of the present extraordinary situation. [passage omitted]

Our party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, was among the first who had faith in Egypt's ability to rise from its fall. We had deep confidence that Al-Sadat's actions did not express Egypt's will or the will of its people and interests, for it took place at a time when the people and the popular will were totally absent. Also, after Al-Sadat was gone, the Ba'th Party was the first to urge Arab strugglers to support and encourage Egypt so as to strengthen the factors of steadfastness and resistance to the Zionist-imperialist plot. Equally, Arab and Muslim Egypt was among the first to warn the Arabs of the danger of the Iranian aggression against Iraq and its link with the Zionist-imperialist plot against the entire Arab homeland. Such awareness of the threat of Khomeyni's expansionist aims toward Iraq and the Arab homeland was, and continues to be, an indirect expression of Egypt's rejection of the plot which has shackled it to the Camp David accords, a plot that aims to separate Egypt from its pan-Arab destiny and end the relations of solidarity that exist between Egypt and other parts of the Arab homeland, particularly Iraq. [passage omitted]

Iraq's steadfastness in the recent Al-Basrah battles is a declaration of Khomeyni's complete failure, for Iraq will emerge victorious from the war. Its new strength, a strength of Arab renaissance, will be a factor in overcoming the impotency and divisions and in building the unionist national future. Such a great event even constitutes a historic opportunity to lay down the bases for Arab unity, albeit in the form of solidarity and cooperation in which all the elements of sound health, renaissance, and a mentality open to knowledge and the modern age will converge. It is a historic opportunity that must be employed in future action, that insures the building of a real strength that will seriously contribute toward the liberation of Palestine. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian question is a major cause and is bound -- despite attempts by Zionism and the West to obliterate, emasculate, and liquidate it -- to reemerge and impose itself forcefully on world conscience and point to the responsibility of those who committed such a crime and the responsibility of the international community, which contents itself with watching and futile generalizations.

The Soviet Union's stand is distinguished and illustrates the qualitative difference between the states of the socialist revolution and the states of the West, which have a history of colonialism and expansion.

Just as the Palestinian resistance must always keep the cause alive and must lead Palestinian steadfastness and turn it into a base for a serious role of liberation and a platform of struggle,

reminding Arabs and the world of their responsibility toward that cause, Iraq's struggle is also to build an instrument of liberation and a plan for renaissance. Both stands share the central cause of the Arab struggle and a common understanding of the nature of the Zionist challenge and the imperialist-Zionist-Iranian plot, which aims to split Arab society and strike at its spirit of awakening.

The maturity of both the Ba'thist and Palestinian experiences puts them in the same trench facing a common enemy. The connection between Iraq's battle and Palestine's battle is a profound one. It is a meeting of the same cause, the same principles, and a joint legitimate, heroic, and steadfast stand. They have a common enemy, and the steadfastness of one complements the steadfastness of the other. The steadfastness of the camps has a strong impact on Iraq's battle, just as Iraq's steadfastness is a factor of strength in the steadfastness of the camps. [passage omitted]

The closeness between Iraq and the Palestinian resistance and the relationship of solidarity established between Iraq and Egypt are the upshot of the reassessment of Arab struggle. Thanks to the many things which have been discovered during the war, many concepts were redressed and broader vistas were envisaged for utilizing the lessons learned from the Arab struggle for future pan- Arab action. The current conspiracy against Arab destiny has many dimensions and many arenas. It is complex in terms of its objectives and goals. It places Arabs face to face with the tribulation which leaves its mark on the current state of affairs.

The conspiracy to liquidate the Palestinian people in the camps cannot be dissociated from the tragic state of affairs experienced by Lebanon, which has become a target of destruction, to establish on its ruins rival and warring sectarian entities. Following the pan-Arab setback the nation sustained in 1967, and thanks to its democratic atmosphere and its cultural bases, Lebanon became a rostrum for free Arab thought and the Arab nation's conscience, where questions about the reasons for the defeat and how to remedy to its consequences were asked. [passage omitted]

Arab strugglers are pained to see Syria, the country which was the cradle of pan-Arab thought and the place where the Ba'th Party was established, so disfigured and its pan-Arab realities so distorted. Since Hafiz al-Asad's clique and his regime assumed power in Syria, our party has been warning against the anomalous and fabricated status of this anti-Arab regime which lacks any popular support. This status has shown its criminal and dictatorial policy, hostile to the masses; its suspect behavior in relations with countries; and its schemes, which are hostile to the nation and made it resort to corrupt tools on the domestic level, which most certainly undermined the national economy, morals, and everything else.

Arab sides remain deceived by Syria's media and by the false and misleading slogans they put forth about the true nature of this regime and its practices and roles, which play havoc with national and pan-Arab values, obstruct the resurgent and heroic pan-Arab role of Syria, and undermine the genuine historical movement of the Ba'th Party under whose slogans the Syrian regime continues to hide. The Syrian regime has reneged on Ba'th Party principles, dispersed many of its members, and put thousands of Ba'thists and Arab strugglers in prisons and detention camps. Events in recent years have revealed the true nature of this regime to the world in a manner preventing this regime from further deceiving anyone.

The Syrian regime's support for and alliance with Iran has exposed its real anti-Arab bias and its stand on the Palestinian cause, and the PLO has also exposed its involvement in schemes to liquidate the Palestinian cause. This regime's stand on Lebanon also revealed its international alliances,which are hostile to the nation. We firmly believe that the Syrian people, famous for their nationalism and their pan-Arab action, will inevitably take a historical stand againt this regime, which has flouted the nation's values, dignity, and sacred pan-Arab principles. [passage omitted]

Al-Rifa'i, Al-Masri Continue Meetings in U.S.

Meet Murphy, McPherson

JN071426 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i met in Washington last night with Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle East affairs. Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri was also present. Discussions centered on the efforts being made to convene an international Middle East peace conference attended by all parties concerned, as well as the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The prime minister and foreign minister have also conferred with Peter McPherson, director of the U.S. Agency for International Development. They discussed the economic and social development plan for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Talk With Bush, Shultz

JN071945 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i met in Washington tonight with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri was also present. The prime minister is now meeting with Vice President George Bush and will confer later with President Regan's national security adviser, Mr Frank Carlucci. Earlier Mr al-Rifa'i, accompanied by the foreign minister, met at the Pentagon with U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger.

AL-DUSTUR on Efforts To Convene Peace Conference

JN071549 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Apr 87 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Progress on the Road to the International Conference"]

[Text] With His Majesty King Husayn's arrival in Brussels yesterday after concluding a brief working visit to Amsterdam, the Jordanian political move designed to exploit the increasing international unanimity on holding an international peace conference has reached a distinguished climax — bearing in mind that Brussels is now the venue of EC sessions. What reinforces the importance of this effort, which is patiently and courageously led by King Husayn, is the positive statement made by the Belgian foreign minister and EC chairman at the conclusion of 2 days of unofficial meetings involving EC foreign ministers.

The communique issued by the Arab League Council in Tunis, which called for an international peace conference to achieve peace in the Middle East, gives new momentum to the Jordanian moves taking place simultaneously in more than one capital and on more than one continent. While His Majesty King Husayn and his European hosts discuss the question of an international conference, which he considers the major topic of discussion with the EC foreign ministers council, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the foreign minister are raising the same issue with U.S. officials, who are still hesitant about approving such a gathering.

The tour of the region to be undertaken this month by Leo Tindemans, Belgian foreign minister and chairman of the EC foreign ministers council, is strong evidence of the numerous and intensive moves designed to eliminate the last obstacles on the road to an international conference.

While recalling that America's reluctance about an international conference remains the major stumbling block, we are confident that all these moves, endeavors, and positions supporting the formula Jordan proposed earlier will ultimately bring a number of important diplomatic achievements. These accomplishments will make the issue of an international conference a matter of time, despite Israel's meaningless obstinacy and America's reluctance.

UN Handed Protest on Israel's 'Arbitrary Practices'

JN080632 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Jordan has submitted a protest to the members of the UN General Assembly and Security Council on Israel's violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories. The protest was made in a memorandum that 'Abdallah Salah, Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nations, handed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The memorandum refers to the arbitrary practices carried out by the Israeli occupation authorities, including the expropriation of Arab land to implement the Zionist plan of emptying the occupied Arab territories of their original inhabitants and to control those areas. This is a violation of international law.

The memorandum states that the Zionist enemy expropriated 18,000 dunums in the West Bank to establish Zionist settlements in January.

GDR Education Minister Continues Official Visit

Received by Prince Hasan

JN071431 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, has received Hans Joachim Boehme, GDR minister for university and technical school affairs, in his office at the Royal Hashemite Court. The visiting minister conveyed compliments from Erich Honecker, chairman of the GDR State Council, to His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Prince Hasan. They discussed the possibility of stepping up bilateral cooperation in higher education and scientific research in the interests of both countries' development objectives and ambitions. His highness stressed the importance Jordan attaches to manpower training in all fields and the contribution of higher education to the country's general progress. Prince Hasan hoped there would be increased cooperation between Jordan and the GDR in education, culture, archeology, and science.

The meeting was also attended by Court Minister 'Adnan Abu

'Awdah, Minister of Higher Education Nasir al-Din al-Asad, and the GDR ambassador in Amman. Earlier in the morning, the German minister called on Minister of Education Dhuqan al-Hindawi.

Meets With Counterpart

JN080641 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Amman — A Jordanian delegation led by Nasir al-Din al-Asad, minister of higher education, and a German team headed by Hans Joachim Boehme, GDR minister for university and technical school affairs, held a round of talks at the Ministry of Higher Education today.

At the start of the session, Al-Asad expressed hope that the means of cooperation between the two friendly countries would be united. He reviewed the history of this collaboration, which began in 1983, and affirmed that the cultural agreement between the two countries should be renewed.

Professor Boehme expressed his appreciation and support for the proposal by Prince Hasan, regent and crown prince, to cooperate closely wherever possible, with emphasis on scientific research.

Dudin, Danish Envoy Discuss Occupied Territories

JN051513 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Apr 87 p 26

[Text] Amman, (PETRA) — While receiving the nonresident Danish ambassador to Jordan yesterday, Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin and the envoy reviewed the requirements of development projects in the occupied Arab territories, as well as the Jordanian Government's efforts to help the public overcome their difficult economic situation. During the meeting, they also discussed the possibility of Denmark contributing to the implementation of a number of development projects in the occupied Arab territories.

Hostage Release Linked to Reopening of Airport

NC071802 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] The Gulf newspaper *Al-Ittihad* reported today that the U.S. Administration has requested a timetable for the release of six hostages in the next 3 months in return for approval of the resumption of operations from Beirut International Airport. Citing a prominent political source in West Beirut, the paper says that Washington promised to put pressure on Israel to release 380 Lebanese and Palestinian detainees within 2 months in exchange for the release by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine of the 4 Beirut University College professors.

The source noted that the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon had conveyed this request to several politicians and party leaders in West Beirut. The source also disclosed that there have been intensive contacts between Beirut, a number of regional capitals, and the U.S. Administration in the past 2 weeks, and that Washington was notified that no hostage can be released as freed while Beirut Airport remains closed. This prompted the Americans to ask for a timetable as a guarantee, in return for a decision to reopen the airport.

Syrian Troops To Take Up Positions Around Camps

NC071327 Paris AFP in English 1239 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Beirut, Apri' 7 (AFP) — Wounded residents of two Palestinian refugee camps besieged by Amal militiamen were to be evacuated Tuesday as Syrian troops were expected to deploy around the two compounds, Syrian and Palestinian sources said here.

A spokesman for the Palestinian National Salvation Front (PNSF) said victims of the siege of the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps south of here would be evacuated as the final step in a three-stage accord to end the siege.

A ceasefire, the first stage of the agreement worked out in Damascus Sunday between Amal and the PNSF, was being respected Tuesday after taking effect at 0600 GMT on Monday. Five truck loads of food and medical supplies, in the second stage of the agreement, were later delivered Monday to Shatila where 4,000 residents had been living under extreme hardship since the Amal siege began November 26.

Syrian sources said Syrian troops were to take up four positions around Shatila and eight around Burj al-Barajinah. They said Syrian observation posts were also to be installed around the camps. [passage omitted]

Syrians Deploy Around Shatila

NC071417 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Syrian forces deployed around Shatila this afternoon in implementation of an agreement reached at a meeting in Syrian Headquarters in Beirut at noon today. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Amal Movement and the PNSF, and Syrian observers. Colonel 'Abd al-Salam Daghistani and PNSF representatives toured the camp. A number of wounded persons are scheduled to be evacuated from Shatila today.

Further on Syrian Deployment

NC071800 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Meetings continued today to discuss ways of ending the abnormal situation in and around the Palestinian camps and to ensure that the latest agreement on this is smoothly implemented. One such meeting was held at the Syrian observers' headquarters. It was attended by representatives of the various parties concerned, as well as Colonel 'Alu Hammud, head of the Syrian observers; Col 'Abd al-Salam Daghistani, and Major Walid Hasanati. According to Syrian sources, the conferees emphasized that the latest cease-fire must be honored and Syrian checkpoints established around the Shatila camp and on the Al-Mashnuq combat line of Burj al-Barajinah. The participants at this meeting also agreed that the evacuation of the wounded, the departure of Palestinians from both camps, and the entry of supplies will take place freely and unconditionally.

Palestinian sources noted that a team of Syrian observers has deployed around Shatila. According to these sources, Col Daghistani and PNSF officials Abu Fadi and Abu 'Adnan entered the camp to explore the sites where the Syrian team will take up positions.

As far the evacuation of the wounded, sources in the Syrian observers team have declared that this operation will not take place today due to technical difficulties.

Truckloads of Arms Bound for Amal Turned Back

NC080543 Paris AFP in English 0519 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Sidon, April 8 (AFP) — Five trucks laden with arms for Amal Shi'ite militiamen were turned back from the gates of the southern Lebanese city of Sidon Tuesday by the Popular Liberation Army (PLA), which is controlled by the city's leading citizen, Mustafa Sa'd.

Correspondents on the spot said Amal officials and a 20-strong Syrian military escort argued with the PLA for three hours and then drove back to the village of Al-Rumayl, 35 kilometres (21 miles) south of Beirut. [passage omitted]

Earlier Tuesday, Syrian soldiers set up four observation posts around the Shatila Palestinian camp in Beirut, loosening the Shi'ite Amal militia's stranglehold over the camp since November 26.

In one of the positions, Syrian troops built a shelter with sandbags at the western entrance to the camp.

The Syrians have placed double security cordons around the four entrances to the camp, marking a no-man's-land of about 50 meters (yards) to avoid clashes between Palestinian and Shi'ite fighters.

At the Abu Asad entrance, about 20 Palestinian women were seen emerging from their hideouts Tuesday to greet relatives in Amal-controlled zones whom they had not seen in over four months.

Amal Arms Pass Through Sidon

NC080912 Paris AFP in English 0858 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Sidon, Lebanon, April 8 (AFP) — A five-truck convoy carrying arms for Amal Shi'ite militiamen passed through the southern Lebanese town of Sidon early Wednesday and continued heading south, correspondents on the spot said.

The convoy was escorted by 20 Syrian troops until it reached Zahrani, 12 kilometres (8 miles) south of Sidon. The Syrian troops then returned to Beirut, the correspondents added.

The convoy is believed to be resupplying Amal positions near Zahrani.

Late Tuesday, the convoy was turned back from the gates of sidon by the Popular Liberation Army (PLA), which is controlled by the city's leading citizen, Mustafa Sa'd.

Wednesday at dawn, PLA militiamen agreed to escort the convoy through the streets of Sidon.

It was the first time since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 that Syrian troops entered Sidon, although Damascus has stationed a military observer there since 1985.

It was also the first time since the start of the "war of the camps," on September 30, that Amal arms and ammunition had been taken through Sidon. Such materiel was previously shipped from Beirut to the southern Lebanese port of Tyre. [passage omitted]

Gunmen Fire on Syrian Checkpoint in West Beirut

NC071840 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Three gunmen in a BMW 520 fired at a checkpoint manned by Syrian troops and members of the internal security forces at the Al-Dana intersection in Al-Tariq al-Jadidah at 1700 today.

Two internal security bomb disposal experts defused an 82-mm mortar shell in Karakash this morning. They also dismantled two hand grenades, wired to an electric detonator, which had been planted in a garbage dump opposite the (?Al-Tayyibah) secondary school in Karakash.

Syrian Intelligence Captain Reportedly Shot Dead

NC072058 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Citing eyewitnesses, security sources in West Beirut report that gunmen in a white BMW fired at an 'Alawite captain in Dirgham, Syrian intelligence, near [words indistinct] gas station. He was killed instantly.

Dynamite Explodes Outside Mufti's Office

NC071942 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Unidentified men hurled a bundle of dynamite at the wall of Al-Fatwa House [the mufti's office] in 'Aishah Bakkar [West Beirut] at 2030 today. The blast caused material damage.

Karami Sees 'Grave Danger' in Recent Proposals

NC072015 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has said that if the goal behind the proposals submitted in the recent working paper is for the president to remain in office should it become difficult to hold presidential elections, there would be a grave danger. This is because problems and incidents can be fabricated to prevent elections and, thus, the present regime could continue indefinitely. He added: If such plans are intended to pressure us, they will be to no avail. He hoped that the intentions of those participating in the Damascus talks are sincere, so that the solutions needed to set Lebanon on the road to salvation may be found.

Karami made this statement after chairing the weekly meeting of the General Committee at his home this evening. Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran, Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi, and members of the committee were also present at the session.

Sham'un Reiterates Call for Cabinet To Meet

NC071232 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Following a 50-minute meeting today with Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, former President Sham'un stressed that the cabinet must convene to deal with Lebanon's problems and difficulties, the price of which the average citizen is paying. He affirmed that the Lebanese people themselves should be the first and final consideration when reaching a settlement. Sham'un also called for calm treatment of the airports issue, far from any political considerations.

When asked why there are no positive practical results yet, despite his repeated meetings with Speaker al-Husayni, Sham'un replied: We will not see practical results unless there are positive theories on paper first. The working papers in circulation should be carefully studied to provide solutions that will lead to some sort of consensus. He added: Our meeting today comes after the announcement of the working paper proposed by the president of the republic. We still have to study this paper to see if it is accepted by all parties or whether it needs to be amended.

When asked how he viewed the fact that Prime Minister Karami does not believe in exchanges and calls for issuing decrees outside the structure of cabinet meetings, Sham'un replied: These roving decrees are substitutes for cabinet meetings and may be fit

for minor matters. However, major issues require that all the ministers meet to reach a decision. There is no other alternative to this, despite what Prime Minister Karami may think. We must return to holding cabinet meetings to eliminate all the difficulties that the citizen is paying for.

Sham'un voiced his readiness to cooperate with the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies to reach an agreement among all Lebanese.

Israeli Vehicle Destroyed by Explosives
NC071808 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] According to a statement released by the Lebanese National Resistance Front, the martyr 'Imad al-Haj 'Ali unit planted an explosive device on Al-Mir Hill this morning. The charge went off under an Israeli intelligence vehicle, destroying it and killing or wounding its passengers. The same group detonated a device targeted against an enemy patrol near the Kafr Falus installations. The unit attacked the patrol with rockets and machineguns, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

Ceremonies Mark Ba'th Party's 40th Anniversary

Al-Ahmar Addresses Rally

JN071938 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Speech by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, at a mass rally marking the 40th anniversary of the party's establishment, held at the Damascus University auditorium — live]

[Excerpts] Comrades, brothers, esteemed audience: Our celebration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the great Arab Socialist Ba'th Party is a dear occasion. It is a special occasion for us to reiterate that the banners of the Ba'th Party will continue to fly high in the skies of the Arab homeland and that Ba'thist soldiers will remain true to their pledge to escalate the struggle to realize the Arab nation's aspirations to unity, freedom, and socialism. [applause] I take this happy opportunity to convey to you and to the Arab masses the greetings of the party's secretary general, the symbol of the contemporary Arab fight, struggler Hafiz al-Asad. [applause] I also convey to you the wishes of our party leadership for further victories along the road to liberation and development. [passage omitted]

The Ba'th Party is now making intensive efforts to promote development in all walks of life by saving it from objective and subjective obstacles. The party proceeds in building our own resources with swift steps toward establishing strategic parity with the Zionist enemy as a basic requisite for confronting its aggression and establishing a real, just, and comprehensive peace through which our Arab nation will regain its usurped land, legitimate rights, and freedom. [passage omitted]

The blood of Ba'thist martyrs clearly proves the pan- Arab nature of the battle and is an indication that the genuine independence of each Arab faction and each Arab freedom force is commensurate with the battle's pan-Arab nature and with the principle that the Arab cause is indivisible. It cannot be confined to a regional Arab framework. The Palestinian cause is the central cause of the entire Arab struggle. Bragging about a trite form of independent decisionmaking means readiness to accept separate and isolationist solutions to a pan-Arab cause. This was originally the logic of Camp David, the logic that represents the basis and mainstay of the old-new imperialist-Zionist plot.

The Arab masses do not recognize artificial borders. Their main causes of struggle are the same in all Arab countries. The central nature of the Palestinian cause in the contemporary Arab struggle gives this cause a sacred place and a major importance that makes it immune to isolationist and separate settlements. he Arab Socialist Ba'th Party is a pan-Arab party inspired by the Arab masses' aspirations, and is committed to Arab causes. Since its birth, the Ba'th Party has considered the Palestinian cause to be the central point of its struggle. Our party's commitment and sacrifices will continue and increase as challenges increase. This party will continue to raise the Palestinian flag until the Arab nation regains its full rights on Arab land from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf. [applause]

Brothers, the usurpation of Palestine and the establishment and expansion of the Zionist entity demonstrate the aggressive striking power of imperialism and Zionism against the Arab nation. Hence, one can see the central nature of the Palestinian cause in the Arab struggle and the pan-Arab dimension of this cause. The anti-Arab imperialist plot is one plot in terms of its general outlines, comprehensive nature, and coordination. However, this plot takes different forms in different parts of the Arab world. In Egypt this plot is being implemented through Camp David. In the Gulf the tyrant of Iraq, Saddam, was instigated to launch a war against Iran to squander the resources of the two neighborly peoples and to engage the Arab nation and divert it from its basic struggle with the Zionist enemy. In Lebanon attempts to expand and entrench Camp David appeared as an indispensable aspect of imperialist relations with the Arab region. This occurred when the enemies attempted to impose the 17 May agreement and massed NATO fleets to do this. However, these attempts failed, the agreement was canceled, and the fleets were forced [to leave] following the resistance of our Arab people in Lebanon and unlimited Syrian support for this resistance.

The Lebanese national resistance was a symbol of the new Arab era and the symbol of our adherence to principles. It was the symbol of our refusal to concede any Arab rights. In general, conditions in this sister country are developing positively. The Syrian Arab country, having responded to the appeal of Lebanese leaders for Syrian forces to enter Beirut and impose security and stability there following a period of anarchy and destruction in the heroic city, is now pushing the factions in Lebanon toward dialogue. It is affirming security, supporting resistance to the occupiers and their agents, and moving toward Lebanon's salvation from the abnormal state in which it has lived for years. [applause]

As for the Palestinian arena, the gang of deviation is working to impose the same imperialist conspiracy and involve the Palestinian people in capitulatory solutions. They are trying to implementing a new branch of Camp David. Today the need to end this deviationist trend and its symbols is a basic condition for restoring the purity and unity of the Palestinan people and for recovering their role as an essential factor in the contemporary Arab struggle and a basic element of its structure. [passage omitted]

Comrades, any link between the pan-Arab cause and the socialist cause and any dependence of national action on pan-Arab action will remain absent unless the pan-Arab cause is tied to the causes of mankind and its liberation. Our party was aware of this fact at the moment of its inception. It reaffirmed the human dimension of our pan-Arab identity, the humaneness of the Arab nation, its openness to other cultures, and its effective contribution to global civilization. This has saved the party's ideology from falling victim to nationalist isolationism or chauvinism. [passage omitted]

The party has remained loyal to this link between the pan-Arab cause and the causes of militant people. Our party affirms this link more than ever and emphasizes the solidarity that exists among all militant, progressive, and peace-loving forces in the world.

On this basis, our party viewed cooperation with socialist countries, particularly the friendly USSR [applause], within the framework of a militant strategy against the common enemy, represented by imperialism, Zionism, racism, hegemony, and exploitation, and to establish a new world governed through the effective participation of all peoples, who will seek to promote civilization, give free reign to mankind's creative nature, and achieve world peace.

From the premise of this strategic stand, the Ba'th Party supports all the USSR's initiatives to avert the threat of nuclear war and achieve nuclear disarmament, particularly the historic initiative presented by the Soviet leadership on 15 January 1986. The Ba'th Party also states that the USSR's subsequent initiatives have come to complete this basic and comprehensive proposal and are within its framework and do not replace it. The Ba'th Party also affirms that the issues of nuclear and strategic weapons disarmament cannot be divided.

In addition, the Ba'th Party backs the struggle of the USSR, the socialist countries, and by all the world's progressive and democratic forces against the imperialist Star Wars program. The Ba'th Party considers itself a partner in this fight and believes mankind's primary mission lies in foiling this program in its struggle for a world free of nuclear weapons, especially since the Zionist entity has approved this program, the Zionist entity has not approved this program and its readiness to participate in it, which shows how great a direct threat this program poses to our region. [sentence as heard]

Comrades, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, as one of the important elements of the Arab revolution and as a basic partner in the people's struggle, supports the fight of the exploited and oppressed for liberation. It strongly condemns imperialist and racist practices that are directly backed by Zionism throughout the world. [passage omitted]

Communist Leaders Cable Al-Asad

JN070806 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has received letters and cables of congratulations on the 40th anniversary of the party from inside the country and from Arab and foreign nations, lauding the establishment of the party of freedom, unity, and socialism, and the progressive and pan-Arab role it is playing in the Arab nation's battles against Zionism and imperialism and on behalf of building a unified Arab socialist society. The president has received a congratulatory cable from the CPSU Central Committee expressing to him and all members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the party's 40th anniversary. The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, along with other patriotic forces, has waged an energetic struggle for Syria's national interests and progress as well as for reinforcing its political and economic independence. Today, given Israel's continued aggression and the intrigues of anti-Syrian forces, the Ba'th Party firmly adheres to a policy of standing up to imperialism's new comprehensive policies, holds a distinguished position in the ranks of the anti-imperialist Arab movement, and supports a just solution to the Middle East. The struggle by the Syrian nationalists and those in other Arab countries against the hostile policies of the imperialists and their allies to remove the flashpoints of war in the Middle East is in total harmony with the peace-loving forces' efforts to end nuclear confrontation and set up a comprehensive form of world security. The CPSU deeply appreciates the Ba'th Party's support for Soviet policies designed to find solutions to regional disputes, halt the arms race, and preserve and entrench world peace. The significant role in the overall multifaceted cordial relations between the USSR and the Syrian Arab Republic is attributable to the ties between the CPSU and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and their cooperation in the best interests of the peoples of both states. We wish the Arab Socialist Ba'th party and the friendly Syrian people success in their endeavors on behalf of peace, independence, and progress.

The president has also received a congratulatory cable from Comrade Eric Honecker, secretary general of the Politburo of the Socialist Party of Germany, and chairman of the State Council of the GDR, which conveyed to Al-Asad and to members of the national and regional commands, as well as to the rank and file of the Ba'th Party, best wishes on behalf of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. The Socialist Unity Party holds in high regard its close friendly relations with your party — relations that have existed for decades and have significantly contributed to developing and reinforcing anti-imperialist bonds between the GDR and the Syrian Arab Republic. We take this opportunity to wish the friendly Arab Socialist Ba'th Party further success in the political and economic development of its country and in the struggle against imperialist schemes to impose hegemony and against Israeli expansionist policies as well as the struggle for a just, comprehensive solution to the Middle East question. We are convinced that the relations between our two parties will be further cemented through our common struggle with a view to averting a nuclear catastrophe and building a world of peace and social progress.

In addition, the president has gotten a congratulatory cable from Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, the Romanian president and secretary general of the Political Executive Committee Permanent Bureau of the Romanian Communist Party, which said: On behalf of the leadership of the Romanian Communist Party, all Romanian Communists, as well as the entire Romanian people, and on my own behalf, I extend to your excellency, the leaders of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and all party members our warm congratulations and best wishes of good health to you and success in reaching the objectives set by your party for the development of the country. We also hope for the well-being of the friendly Syrian people and for peace and cooperation. I take this opportunity to express confidence that the ties of friendship and cooperation between the Romanian Communist Party and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and between the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Syrian Arab Republic will continue to grow in the best interests of the Romanian and Syrian peoples and in the service of international collaboration for peace and cooperation among nations. [passage omitted]

Shamir 'Welcomes' Contacts With Soviet Union

TA071824 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir takes a positive attitude toward and welcomes any contact with the Soviet Union. He said this in response to a question regarding meetings the foreign minister may hold with Soviet representatives during the Socialist International conference in Rome. The prime minister talked to residents of the Neve Sharet community center, and our correspondent Dan Eshel reports on his remarks:

[Begin Shamir recording] For many years we have evinced our desire to maintain direct contacts with the Soviet Union and its representatives. This situation in which Israel has no ties with one of the world's largest and strongest countries is abnormal; such ties are important for Israel. At the same time it is a great shame that since 1967 the Soviet Union has not maintained relations with us, although it does have normal relations with many countries whose policies it disagrees with and whose underlying concepts are unacceptable to it. For some reason, it chose to discriminate against us. Another reason for our interest in ties with the Soviet Union is the predicament of the Jews living there. A large percentage of our people live in that large country, cut off from the Jewish people and from Eretz Yisra'el. [end recording]

Views Cabinet Summit Role

TA071158 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that we better not work for the convening of an international conference on the Middle East before a cabinet decision is made on the subject. At the same time, Shamir said he will not initiate a discussion on this issue in the cabinet. The prime minister answered questions by our correspondent Dan Eshel in a news conference held during a tour in Tel Aviv.

[Begin recording] [Eshel] A major topic of interest for the reporters is the international conference. Spain expressed support for the idea of the conference, following talks with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. We questioned the prime minister on this issue.

[Shamir] Spain will not even participate in such a conference, if it is held. It also does not depend on Spain whether such a conference is convened. Therefore, there is a great deal of exaggeration in presenting the entire matter of this trip as if it were intended for this purpose. My opinion is known. I am convinced that convening an international conference with the participation of a large number of elements whose stance has always been anti-Israel will be dangerous for Israel. No salvation can emerge from this, and surely not peace either.

[Eshel] Such a conference, the prime minister says, will only serve hostile propagandists, adding:

[Shamir] The situation after such a conference may be graver than before it, and therefore I am opposed to this entire push toward an international conference.

[Eshel] We asked the prime minister whether he would initiate a discussion in the cabinet on this subject.

[Shamir] I will not initiate a discussion in the cabinet, because it is clear to me that with its present composition, it is impossible to reach a decision. If Mr Peres wants to do, this he can raise the issue in the cabinet. However, I think that no action should be taken on behalf of this conference before the cabinet makes a decision on it. [end recording]

Peres Continues European Tour To Promote Summit

Denies Zurich Soviet Meeting

TA061055 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Apr 87 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ilan Shehori and 'Aqiva Eldar, and from Spain by Yo'av Tocker]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday denied a rumor about a secret meeting he held with a Soviet personage in Zurich yesterday, during his stopover en route to Madrid. Nevertheless, European and Israeli sources last night hinted that "something of this sort" is indeed on the agenda.

The impression given in Madrid yesterday was that a meeting between Peres and a senior Soviet personage is currently being planned and may take place as early as this week, during the foreign minister's round of talks in Europe.

Peres himself yesterday left the impression that he was not putting too much effort into wiping out the rumors; upon arrival at the Madrid airport he indeed denied the rumor about a secret meeting in Zurich, but added: "When meetings do take place and I can say as much, I will say just that...."

In a speech before several hundred Jews in Madrid, the foreign minister elaborated on the Israeli positions in view of possible Soviet participation in a Middle East peace conference. Peres especially stressed the positive aspects of the changes that have occurred in the Soviet Union lately, particularly the release of Prisoners of Zion and the increased pace of issuing exit visas to Jews. [passage omitted]

Soviet Representatives Named

TA070931 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Apr 87 pp 1, 12

[Report by Yosi Bar in Rome, Edwin Eytan in Madrid, Ann Eckstein in Brussels, and Gad Li'or]

[Excerpt] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres may meet with senior Soviet representatives in Rome this week, within the framework of the Socialist International convention that opens in the Italian capital today. It has been learned that a "third party" mediated in organizing the meeting between Peres and the Soviet figures, and that the latter have come to Rome especially to meet with the foreign minister. Foreign

Ministry Spokesman Uri Savir refused to comment on the report.

Political and diplomatic sources told our correspondents that the Soviet Union — which is very eager to join the peace process in the Middle East — wants to make contact specifically with Peres, who supports an international conference and is making efforts to promote it.

Members of the Israeli delegation to the Socialist International claim that the Soviet representatives with whom Peres will meet — possibly as early as tomorrow or the day after — are Karen Brutents, Dobrynin's deputy and a member of the Communist Party Central Committee; and Aleksandr Zotov, who heads the committee for Middle Eastern Affairs in the Kremlin. [passage omitted]

Peres on Talks With Soviets

TA080543 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Last night, senior Soviet delegates met with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Rome under the aegis of the Socialist International. They are expected to hold further talks today. Details of the talks have been blacked out, but participants in the meeting feel that we are on the brink of a new era in relations between the two countries and that progress was made toward holding an international Middle East peace conference. Our correspondent Yosi Bar reports from Rome:

[Begin recording] [Bar] The honeymoon that began last night between Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and two senior representatives of the Soviet Government will continue today as well. The two Soviet delegates, Karen Brutents, Dobrynin's deputy and member of the CPSU Politburo; and Aleksandr Zotov, a Kremlin Middle East expert, met with Peres last night for over an hour in the foreign minister's private room. A full blackout has been imposed on the content of the talks, so that the only thing Peres agreed to say was:

[Peres] I believe the talks were very serious. I think the two sides avoided polemics as such. We will continue tomorrow. This is merely the beginning, and should not be overrated. It is very interesting. This is all I can say.

[Bar] The meetings between the foreign minister and the Soviet representatives overshadowed the deliberations of the Socialist International here in Rome. Italian Prime Minister and President of the Socialist Party Bettino Craxi conferred last night with Mr Peres, who updated him on the efforts toward convening an international conference and on his talks with the Soviets. Before the private meetings, the Middle East Committee of the Socialist International, which was attended by delegates from 15 countries including Fayiz Abu Rahmah, who represented the Palestinians, held a comprehensive discussion on the Middle East. Representatives of the Soviet Union, Israel, the Palestinians, and the other participants were unanimous on the need for an international conference.

Soviet delegate Karen Brutents tried to distinguish between a solution to the Middle East crisis and the release of Jews from the Soviet Union and the establishment of diplomatic ties with Israel. He believes that these issues can be solved more easily than the Middle East problem. Let us first make peace between ourselves, before you suggest making peace between Israel and the Arabs, Mr Peres responded. The foreign minister emphasized the importance of letting Jews emigrate from the Soviet Union and noted that this matter is linked to the survival and existence of the Jewish people. The Soviets and the Israelis agreed that no solution should be forced upon the parties and that direct contacts between the countries involved in the conflict have no substitute.

As to the Palestinian representation in the international conference, the Soviets believe that the Palestinians should themselves elect their representatives, but mentioned the fact that the PLO should be taken into account, being the representative of the Palestinian people. Mr Peres said that the Palestinians are not our enemy; they are neighbors and we will have to live in peace with them. Israel and the Palestinians do not want to see more people killed, Peres said, noting that the PLO is a terrorist organization.

But beyond the public exchange of statements, it seems that the meetings being held behind closed doors, about which Mr Peres reported to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, could pave a new way in relations between Israel and the Soviet Union. [end recording]

Receives Gorbachev Message

TA080729 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 8 Apr 87 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir, Ze'ev Ofiri, and Eliyahu Zehavi, Copenhagen]

[Excerpt] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has sent a message to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres expressing Soviet willingness in principle to take part in an international conference on peace in the Middle East, and to improve the political relations with Israel. The Soviet message was relayed to Peres via two senior Soviet officials who came to Italy for a meeting with him. The meeting was held in Rome yesterday and today Peres is scheduled to meet with them again.

The two Soviet representatives, Karen Brutents and Aleksandr Zotov, a senior diplomat in the Middle East department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, came to Rome officially as observers of the deliberations of the Socialist International, but the genuine purpose of their arrival was the meeting with Peres. The meeting was coordinated in secret contacts between the foreign minister's Jerusalem office and Soviet diplomats in the Kremlin. Peres' political adviser, Dr Nimrod Novik, coordinated the contacts from the Israeli side. Only a few months ago Novik met with Soviet representatives in London.

The main topics discussed at the meeting were the furthering of an international conference, the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union in direct flights to Israel via Romania, and defrosting the diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union. Israel continues to make Soviet participation in an international conference dependent on the renewal of diplomatic relations between the countries.

Peres' meeting with the Soviet diplomats is a direct continuation of his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in New York.

Palestinian representatives from the territories have also arrived in Rome with the special authorization of the Israeli Government.

Peres plans further meetings in the near future with senior Soviet figures, and his office does not dismiss the possibility that this very year Peres will hold yet another meeting with the Soviet foreign minister, either in Moscow or in a European capital. It has been learned that he plans to continue his initiative to promote an international conference, despite the anger of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. [passage omitted]

Briefs Shamir on Contacts

TA081240 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1235 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres last night briefed Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on his meetings in Rome with the two Soviet diplomats. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that in the phone call, which was initiated by Peres, there was no mention of the remarks by the prime minister who, as may be recalled, expressed the hope that Peres would fail in his mission of promoting the international conference idea.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office reemphasized today that despite his opposition to the international conference concept Shamir supports contacts with the Soviets and views contacts as a favorable phenomenon.

USSR's Brutents Discusses Summit, Direct Talks

TA080635 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Apr 87 pp 1, 2

["Exclusive" report from Rome by Gid'on Kouts]

[Excerpt] "You want to put the cart before the horse and talk about the form of the international conference even before there is one. An international peace conference does not replace direct negotiations; we support such negotiations. The sides will have to decide on the form of the negotiations. We are not opposed to subcommittees as proposed by Mr Peres."

This was said to me by senior Soviet official Karen Brutents. I spoke with him and his adviser, Aleksandr Zotov, for about 15 minutes in the lobby of the Sheraton Hotel a short time after he had concluded his meeting with Shim'on Peres. The smiles, sense of humor, and the good atmosphere were evidence of what had taken place with the vice prime minister.

"Israel cannot speak with all its neighbors; somebody must lead it to this. We are opposed to an imposed solution, whether it is imposed by the Soviet Union, the United States, or Israel," the Soviet official said.

"Why is Peres afraid of an imposed solution? Perhaps he is afraid that he will not succeed in imposing his own solution? Do you think Mr Peres will succeed in overcoming the difficulties in his own government?" he asked. "I think that in the end Israel will have to speak with the PLO, but the Palestinians themselves will have to decide on their representatives to an international conference. I hope this is the beginning of a process, but the difficulties still remain. It is now up to Israel to take steps forward." [passage omitted]

Beilin Briefs Knesset on Soviet Contacts

TA071847 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Foreign Ministry Political Director General Yosi Beilin says direct contacts are going on between Israel and the Soviet Union over Jewish emigration and other issues. Beilin told a subcommittee of the Knesset Immigration Committee that the Soviet Union will never be allowed to participate in the Middle East peace process unless it restores full diplomatic relations with Israel and opens the gates to Jewish emigration. The subcommittee chairman, the Likud's 'Uzi Landau, launched a bitter attack on the foreign minister and on the minister for immigrant absorption, Labour's Ya'aqov Tzur. Our correspondent Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin Katzenell report] 'Uzi Landau accused the Foreign Ministry of creating the impression that moves toward an international conference on the Middle East, something which Landau categorically opposes, is a condition for Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. And Landau said the minister for immigration and absorption, Ya'aqov Tzur, was implying that Soviet Jews are a hostage in Soviet extortion of political concessions from Israel, and Shim'on Peres has not called Tzur to order, Landau said. Yosi Beilin replied that there will never be Soviet participation in the Middle East peace process unless Moscow restores full diplomatic relations with Israel and opens the gates to Jewish emigration. The Foreign Ministry is adamant on this, Beilin said. He rejected charges that Israel had made a deal for a one-time emigration of about 11,000 Soviet Jews. The assumption always was that there would be no such limit, Beilin said, and emigration would continue in response to the pressure from Soviet Jews. But Beilin did not expect that there will be a wave of Jewish emigration. It would begin slowly and increase steadily, he said. Beilin confirmed that Israel is holding direct contacts with the Soviet Union on Jewish emigration and other issues.

Two right-wing members of the subcommittee, Rabbi Waldman and Rabbi Druckman, said Israel should make the forthcoming Soviet consular level visit to Israel conditional on the release of the last two Jewish prisoners of conscience, Yuly Edelstein and Alexey Magarik, from Soviet jails. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry: Rome Talks Advent to Summit

TA080548 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem is very pleased with Mr Peres' talks with the Soviet delegates, and describes them as preparatory talks toward the international conference. Senior Foreign Ministry sources expressed dismay with the prime min-

ister's reaction to the foreign minister's initiatives. The sources reminded our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that when Mr Peres was prime minister, he refrained from dispatching instructions to the Israeli representations overseas despite the differences of opinion between himself and then Foreign Minister Shamir.

Rabin on Conditions for Support of Peace Summit

TA071141 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he will support an international conference on condition that it is clear to all the sides that it will not be allowed to interfere with direct negotiations between the parties. The defense minister visited wounded IDF soldiers at the Rambam Hospital in Haifa, during which time he spoke with correspondents, among them our correspondent Haviv Roger:

[Begin recording] [Roger] I will support an international conference, Rabin says, if an Arab country stipulates this as a condition for direct negotiations. I will support it on condition that the Soviet Union and the PRC establish diplomatic relations with Israel, Soviet Jews are permitted to emigrate, and in particular on condition that this international conference will only serve as an international umbrella — that is, it will not impose its opinion, will not interfere in what is discussed directly between the parties, and will not serve as an address for one of the sides in the event of an impasse in the contacts between them. If all these conditions are met, and if Jordan agrees to nonintervention on the part of the international conference in the contacts between the sides, the defense minister, as said, will support the conference.

And what about the disputes between Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres on this matter?

[Rabin] I do not hand out grades to the prime minister or to the vice prime minister. I think it would be preferable for internal arguments to remain within. [end recording]

British Official Conveys Thatcher Summit Stance

TA071240 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Apr 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] In his meeting yesterday with Sir Patrick Wright, director general of the British Foreign Office, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asked whether, after 11 hours of talks with the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher believes that the Soviets will be prepared to serve as the backdrop for direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan. Wright replied that Thatcher believes the Soviet Union is trying to use the international conference as a tool to resume activity in the Middle East. Shamir said that Israel has reservations about the conference for this very reason.

The British director general said that after many hours of talks with Gorbachev, Thatcher is still not certain of Moscow's real intentions. Wright suggested that the changes taking place in the Soviet Union, including the change in attitude toward the emigration of Jews, be carefully followed.

Sharon Confirms Plan For Hungarian Visit

TA070939 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Apr 87 p 3

[Report by Yitzhaq Meridor]

[Excerpt] Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon confirmed yesterday that he intends to accept an invitation to travel to Hungary. "The commercial ties forged recently between Israel and Hungary were reinforced after my meeting with the Hungarian foreign trade minister. I believe Hungary will serve as a kind of gateway to the Eastern bloc." The minister made these remarks during a visit to Yoqne'am where he received honorary citizenship. [passage omitted]

IDF Intervenes in West Bank Disturbances 8 Apr

TA081220 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] A student from the Janin boys high school was stabbed this morning by masked individuals who were trying to force students to join in demonstrations. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the boy sustained slight injuries and was evacuated to the hospital. Earlier, a soldier sustained slight injuries from stones thrown at him in Janin.

In Nabulus, as well, there were scuffles between instigators and school children.

In the vocational school at the 'Askar refugee camp, 21 students were injured in a mass brawl. Finally soldiers entered the premises to restore calm. Five students were taken into custody.

Approximately 1 hour ago, a curfew was imposed on the Tulkarm refugee camp because tires were set on fire and stones were thrown at Israeli vehicles. In Ramallah, too, the security forces dispersed a demonstration.

There is a general commercial strike in East Jerusalem today.

Today's demonstrations are staged against the background of the hunger strike by security prisoners. This morning several dozen women demonstrated in Bethlehem's Nativity Square to express solidarity with the prisoners. An IDF unit fired shots in the air and the women dispersed.

ALGERIA

President Receives Maltese Prime Minister 6 Apr

LD061934 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid received the Maltese prime minister today. Their talks centered on bilateral relations and international questions of mutual interest. Also present at the talks were Benzaza, minister of posts and telecommunications, and Smail Hamdani, secretary general [as heard] of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Begins Visit 6 Apr

APS Reports Arrival

LD071211 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 7 Apr (APS) — Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Sudan, and chairman of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party, arrived in Algiers yesterday evening on an official 2-day visit to Algeria at the invitation of Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs.

The Sudanese minister was welcomed on his arrival at Houari Boumediene Airport by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi.

In a statement to the press in the VIP lounge in the airport, Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin expressed his pleasure on arriving for the first time in Algeria, adding that this visit will enable the Sudanese delegation to get acquainted with the achievements of the Algerian people.

Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin also said: "Our visit to Algeria aims at consultation about issues of interest to our two countries and at strengthening the ties of friendship between the two peoples."

In this respect, the Sudanese minister added that Sudan has been conducting a democratic regime for a year; thus we have come in order to study the relations of cooperation between the two countries in the political, social, and economic fields." [quotation marks as received]

Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin added that "the study of the crisis in the Middle East is one of the aims of this visit particularly, after the meeting of the Council of Arab Foreign Ministers in Tunis."

Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin also stated that he has a handwritten message from Sudanese President Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani to President Chadli Bendjedid. Algerian-Sudanese political talks will start today at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Holds Talks with Ibrahimi

LD071806 Algiers APS in English 1350 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 07 April 87 (APS) — [Word indistinct] of the Sudanese Council of Ministers, Foreign Minister of the Republic of the Sudan and Secretary General of the Unionist Democratic Party, al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin started his trip in Algeria today by a visit to the martyrs sanctuary where he laid a wreath of flowers as homage to the martyrs of the Algerian revolution.

The Sudanese minister held political talks with Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi. The talks which started by a tete-a-tete were later enlarged to bring in the two delegations.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the relations existing between the two countries pointing out that this visit opens a new era of political consultations and multifaceted cooperation between the two brother countries.

LIBYA

Paris Notes Tripoli 'Threat' on Chad Conflict

LD061428 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Libya has issued a threat against France through a communique issued this morning: On the subject of the Chadian conflict, the Libyan diplomatic mission in Paris affirms that France is allegedly responsible for all actions and threats against the southern borders of Libya. The reason given for this is that, according to the Libyan authorities, no action can be carried out by Hissein Habre without the backing, support, and actual participation of the French troops deployed throughout Chad, end quote. [no reference to opening quote as heard]

This is most certainly a reference to the remarks made a few days ago by the French minister of defense, according to which France has never refrained from waging peaceful operations, possibly even north of the 16th parallel. It is also certainly a reference to the reports put out in recent days, notably from American sources, according to which French soldiers belonging to units close to the special services and used to working in secret are reported to have had a role in the fall, which was in the end very rapid, of the Libyan military base at Ouadi Doum. The reports were, moreover, denied at the time.

Burkina Faso's Sankara Arrives in Tripoli 6 Apr

Met by Jallud at Airport

LD062155 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Revolutionary Council in the Jamahiriyah of Burkina Faso, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The president was accorded a warm welcome by Staff Major Abd al-Salam Jallud who was at the forefront of those welcoming him at Tripoli International Airport. The secretary [Muptali al-Ustah

'Umar], members of the People's General Committee, a number of officers of the Libyan Armed Forces, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the great Jamahiriyah also took part in the welcoming ceremony. [passage omitted]

Thomas Sankara is accompanied by Leandre Bassolet, Burkinabe external affairs and cooperation minister, and a number of officials from the Jamahiriyah of Burkina Faso.

Promoted by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD072126 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] A ceremony was held in Tripoli today on the occasion of the promotion of Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution in the Republic of Burkina Faso, to the rank of colonel following the decision issued by the brother leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution to this effect.

The decision by the leader of the great al-Fatih Revolution to bestow the rank of colonel on Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution in the Republic of Burkina Faso is as follows:

Owing to the firm militant and military relations between the great Al-Fatih revolution and the revolution of Burkina Faso, and to the vanguard role played by the militant Thomas Sankara in defending freedom and establishing the second jamahiriyah in history; on the basis of what we have put forward before the Basic People's Congresses in the Republic of Burkina Faso and before the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution with regard to the honoring of the leader of their revolution and their unanimous approval, I have decided:

Article 1: to promote Captain Thomas Sankara to the rank of colonel.

Article 2: This decision is to take effect from the date of issue.

[Signed] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution

The brother leader of the revolution bestowed this promotion upon the chairman of the National Council in the Republic of Burkina Faso. This ceremony was also attended by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the Foreign Liaison People's Bureau, members of the delegation accompanying Col Thomas Sankara, and a number of officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces. [Video shows Burkinabe delegation and Al-Qadhdhafi and Thomas Sankara, both in military uniform, standing in a room. Al-Qadhdhafi is seen placing emblems of rank on Sankara's shoulders. The two men then shake hands and a number of Libyan officers salute Sankara. Al-Qadhdhafi signs what appears to be the decree and members of the Burkinabe delegation salute Sankara]

Trade Talks With Algeria Continue in Tripoli

Cooperation Agreements Signed 7 Apr

LD071520 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] The minutes of the Arab Libyan-Algerian talks were signed this morning in Tripoli to boost bilateral cooperation in the areas of transportation and communications. The minutes of an accord were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transportation, and Brother Rachid Ben Yelles, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the FLN Party and Algerian minister of transportation.

The minutes of the accord cover the boosting of bilateral cooperation in the field of maritime, land, and air transportation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria in the context of the unionist integration between the Arab people in both countries. The Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria have agreed to promote the Arab Libyan-Algerian joint company for transportation, to increase cooperation between maritime transportation companies between the two countries, and to set up a joint working team to study of elements of economic and technical integration between the two countries, and to work for the boosting of cooperation in the domain of land transportation industries and services.

The minutes of the accord also include an increase in the volume of cooperation in the domain of air transportation including aircraft maintenance and the training of technical personnel on the various aspects of air transport.

Transport Minister Leaves 7 Apr

LD071820 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1620 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Apr (JANA) — Brother Rachid Benyelles, member of the FLN Political Bureau and Algerian minister of transportation, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this afternoon, following a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Brother Rachid Benyelles expressed his satisfaction with the results achieved during his visit regarding the consolidation of cooperation in the field of transport between the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

He expressed the hope that what has been achieved in the sphere of cooperation in the field of transport will be a new departure in bolstering the fraternal relations existing between the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

He said: I am certain that the results of this accord will be beneficial for the one people in both brotherly countries.

Al-Qadhdhafi Hands Message for Bendjedid to Envoy

LD042019 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Apr (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, today received the Algerian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, and handed him a message for President Chadli Bendjedid pertaining to current efforts to unite the Palestinian resistance detachments. The leader's message to President Bendjedid also covered the question of security in Africa and the Mediterranean Sea.

Student Groups Commemorate 7 April Revolution

LD071955 Tripoli JANA in English 1747 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr 7, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Student masses in various parts of Great Jamahiriyah celebrated today the 11th anniversary of student's revolution of 7th April 1976 in which the student revolutionary force had settled the struggle to the benefit of the revolution and forever rejected the rotten reactionary right wing in universities and institutes.

Big student festivities were held this morning to commemorate this great historic event in various municipalities of Great Jamahiriyah. Many youth and student delegations from sisterly and friendly countries attended those celebrations.

In Tripoli City a huge festival was held in the Green (?Square) this morning in which male and female students from universities, institutes, colleges, military secondary schools, and groups from the militarised barracks of Tripoli Municipality took part.

A huge student parade was organised into a march. Students chanted revolutionary slogans pledging their eternal adherence to the Great al-Fatih Revolution's pioneering thought, their constant readiness to defend it together with freedom causes everywhere.

The students were carrying leader's portraits and placards stressing the grandure of 7 April.

In al-Marj Municipal Branch, student masses commemorated this great historic event by organising a huge student festival last night in which masses of the student congress and the educational institutions' branch took part.

This morning sports festivities, ideological, and mental competitions were organised between barracks and schools within Al-Marj Municipal Branch.

MAURITANIA

Taya Receives Al-Qadhdhafi's Special Envoy

LD032308 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, received Abu al-Qasim al-Zuwayy, special envoy of Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, this morning. The meeting was also attended by Mohamed Mahmoud Weddadi, adviser to the CMSN chairman, and by the secretary of the Libyan-Mauritanian Brotherhood Office.

The Libyan envoy made a statement afterward to our correspondent, Mohamed Salem Ould Bouka. In his remarks, he said he had come to Mauritania to deliver a message from Col al-Qadhdhafi to the president on current Arab developments. He added that the same message has been sent to all Arab leaders from the Ocean to the Gulf in a bid to adopt a single Arab position.

The Libyan envoy left the capital at noon today. He was seen off by Mohamed Mahmoud Weddadi, adviser to the CMSN chairman, and by the secretary of the Libyan-Mauritanian Brotherhood Office in Nouakchott.

MOROCCO

Tunisian Prime Minister Arrives for 2-Day Visit

Met by Prime Minister Laraki 6 Apr

LD061348 Rabat MAP in English 1254 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Rabat, April 6 (MAP) — Tunisian Premier Rachid Sfar arrived in Rabat this Monday morning on a two-day visit at the invitation of Moroccan Premier Azzedine Laraki.

He was greeted upon arrival by Laraki and senior Moroccan officials and officers.

In a statement to the press, Sfar said his visit fell within the context of consultations between the countries to boost their cooperation, and examine questions of common interest, mainly those of special concern to the Arab Maghreb and the Arab world in general.

Discusses Trade With Laraki

LD062202 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] This afternoon at the premiership headquarters in Rabat Prime Minister Dr Azzedine Laraki held an enlarged working session with Tunisian Prime Minister Rachid Sfar, in the presence of some government members and members of the Tunisian delegation.

At the end of this session, Tunisian Prime Minister Rachid Sfar stressed that his talks with his Moroccan counterpart, Dr Azzedine Laraki, which took place this morning, covered political problems related to the Arab world and the Maghreb.

With regard the working session he held with the Moroccan delegation, he stated that they discussed all matters related to bilateral cooperation and that this meeting is considered to be a continuation of the larger joint committee which convened recently. The talks with the Moroccan delegation covered, Rachid Sfar continued, the means that are likely to bolster the

implementation of the signed agreements between Morocco and Tunisia, particularly the trade agreement and the agreement on cooperation in the industrial field and the agreement on cooperation in the cultural field. The Tunisian prime minister indicated that the enlarged meeting also discussed the issues which will help set up cooperation in the educational field, particularly with regard to the exchange of students between both countries.

Concerning the trade field, Rachid Sfar stated that it has been decided, during the enlarged meeting with the Moroccan delegation under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr Azzedine Laraki, to hold a meeting of a specialized committee to formulate a trade agreement related to the list of products in both countries; it has also been decided to hold regular meetings between parties in charge of investments every 3 months on the basis of alternative venues in both capitals, Rabat and Tunis, to set up joint ventures in the industrial field.

In addition, the Tunisian prime minister said that it has been decided to hold meetings between officials of both the Moroccan and Tunisian Central Banks to facilitate economic operations between both countries.

Tunisian Prime Minister Rachid Sfar received this afternoon at his residence in Dar Diyafa a delegation of Moroccan businessmen. This meeting falls within the framework of consolidating the existing cooperation between both fraternal countries in all fields.

MAP Reports Session With Laraki

LD071341 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Rabat, Apr 7 (MAP) — Moroccan Premier Azzedine Laraki and his Tunisian peer Rachid Sfar, currently on an official visit to Morocco, chaired here Monday an enlarged work session attended by several members of the Moroccan cabinet and the delegation accompanying the Tunisian premier.

Sfar later said works focused on issues related to bilateral cooperation and follow up of the works of the latest meeting of the joint commission. "We have agreed on a number of ways to help materialize existing accords namely the ones on trade, industry,and cultural affairs," he went on.

As to trade, he explained that the two sides agreed to convene a meeting of the specialised commission to finalise the trade agreement which is to include a list of products to freely circulate between the two countries, and determine ways to levy added value taxes on items listed as national products.

The promotion of investments was also examined, said Sfar adding that a group of experts would meet every three months to identify and chart out feasibility studies for joint projects. Moroccan and Tunisian promoters will also hold similar meetings to launch joint industrial ventures, he said.

Central banks executives will meet to work out procedures for speedy payments to operators and ways to ensure smooth economic operations between the two countries, Sfar further said.

Sfar who held earlier a private meeting with his Moroccan peer also visited the Mohammed V Mausoleum where he said prayers and laid a wreath on the tomb of the late monarch, received members of the Tunisian community in Morocco and conferred with a delegation of Moroccan industrialists and businessmen.

Sfar attended, later in the evening, a dinner banquet hosted in his honour by Premier Azzedine Laraki during which the two premiers exchanged toasts recalling the two countries' stances vis-a-vis Arab and Islamic issues and major international questions of relevance to the two countries.

Sfar is to be received this Tuesday by King Hassan II in Marrakech.

Tunis Reports on Talks With Laraki

LD071249 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Following the first day of the visit of Rachid Sfar, the prime minister, to fraternal Morocco, we particularly note the enlarged working session which he chaired with his Moroccan counterpart Dr Azzedine Laraki, in order to study means of boosting bilateral cooperation in continuation of the proceedings of the Tunisian-Moroccan High Mixed Committee. [passage omitted]

On the occasion, a frank dialogue took place about the possibilities of cooperation in the manufacture of spare car parts, medicines, building materials, and some other equipment. Rachid Sfar stressed that the economic structure in the two countries, their development trends, and the kind of difficulties they face are all factors that could strengthen bilateral cooperation and push the two countries to create small and medium joint venture companies which would find in the common maghreb market the best starting point for entering the battle of exports and succeed at it.

The prime minister stressed the necessity of creating a maghreb market in stages through the development of cooperation and caring for the common interest of the parties of this market. [passage omitted]

Rachid Sfar pointed out that Tunisia follows with interest the international efforts at the implementation of the principle of referendum to reach a suitable and acceptable solution to the Saharan issue. He expressed the hope that these efforts would be crowned with success. The prime minister pointed out that the interest of our peoples requires the orientation of our potential toward serving the aims of development in order to get out of the economic crisis and face the challenges which are imposed on us by an international order dominated by protective conflicts which keep increasing dangerously, affecting our economy and interests. He pointed out that these protective policies compel our countries more than ever before to organize their trade exchanges in a way to activate these exchanges and open the way for our national products in our markets, and increase the level of integration between our two economies especially on the maghreb level.

In this respect, he affirmed Tunisia's determination for the implementation of its trade agreements signed with Morocco considering that it is a serious starting point for the creation of a common economic market in which the goods of the two countries would enjoy total exemption. He also pointed out the necessity to support the industries with an integrative character and the work for making them succeed so that they would be an incentive for the Tunisian and Moroccan businessmen to achieve joint projects. [passage omitted]

Rachid Sfar added that Tunisia has confronted the Iranian practices with all determination, and the standpoint that was announced by King Hassan II last week is the best event for His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba, and has the deepest effect on the Tunisian people which rallied as one behind its leader in order to express its attachment to the tolerant Islamic teachings.

SUDAN

Council Member Meets With French Envoy on Chad

JN071816 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT
7 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, April, 7 (SUNA) — Member of the State Council 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din has reviewed here today with the French ambassador to Khartoum the situation in Chad. The ambassador, in a press statement following the meeting, said that they discussed the recent development of the situation in Chad, adding that Sudan and France have agreed to settle peacefully the Chadian question.

Planning Minister Leaves for IMF Meetings

JN072027 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT
7 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, April 7 (SUNA) — Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Dr. Bashir 'Umar has left here Tuesday for Washington to attend the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank joint meetings which are scheduled to be held this week in Washington.

Dr. 'Umar is due to meet with officials at the two international institutions to discuss reports worked out on the Sudan's economy.

The reports comprise recommendations on Sudan economy structure, unification of Sudanese pound rate of exchange, lifting of government support to some basic commodities and reduction of government expenditure besides rehabilitation of public economic institutions and tackling of balance of payment deficit and foreign debts.

At the end of his visit to Washington Dr. 'Umar will fly to Rabat, Morocco, heading Sudan's delegation to the annual meetings of the Arab finance institutions scheduled to be convened in Rabat mid current April.

The meetings which comprise the Arab Monetary Fund, Arab Corporation for Investment Guarantee, Arab Fund for Investment, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (ABDEA) and the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID) are due to discuss the institution activities during the past period and its future programmes.

Southern Official Calls For Regional Parliament

JN060836 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1745 GMT
5 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 5 Apr (SUNA) — (Angelo Bida), Southern Sudan Council member and its official spokesman, has called for a regional parliament for southern Sudan within the framework of practicing democracy in the area.

Speaking to SUNA today, (Bida) said that Parliament must be given powers that would enable southerners to effect their development plans. He said attention must be paid to relief efforts and rehabilitating existing projects in the interest of permament stability in southern Sudan.

He made it clear that the southern Sudan problem is one of development and national income distribution rather than a question of naming opposition figures from the south to government positions. John Garang's return to Sudan and his assignment to an office will not solve the problem, he declared. Only through all-round development can the problem be solved, (Bida) emphasized. [passage omitted]

ETHIOPIA

Foreign Minister Blames Somalia for Talks 'Failure'

EA072109 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Ethiopian Foreign Minister Comrade Berhanu Bayeh made a statement to the press in his office today on relations between Ethiopia and Somalia. Our correspondent, Tekalign Bekele, reports:

[Tekalign] [passage omitted] Comrade Berhanu pointed out that three joint ministerial meetings have been held in Addis Ababa and Mogadishu at the initiative of Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. Comrade Berhanu stated that satisfactory results were not achieved in the joint ministerial meetings arranged by the two leaders.

He went on to cite the major reasons for the failure of the third ad hoc committee meeting, which was similar to the previous sessions. Comrade Berhanu said the Somali side chose to shelve the border issue, which has been the cause of the differences between the two countries and which Ethiopia had raised for discussion.

Instead, the Somali side said it wanted the committee to examine such petty issues as pulling our armies back from our borders, exchanging prisoners, stopping all propaganda and other acts of destabilization, and establishing diplomatic relations.

As such, the meeting ended without tangible results. Fully aware of the fact that these petty issues cannot bring about a peaceful solution to the longstanding differences between the two countries, and after having included the basic problem mentioned by Ethiopia, the committee forwarded the matter to the two countries' heads of state for a decision. [passage omitted]

KENYA

Government Lists Targets of Libyan 'Spying'

EA071317 Nairobi THE STANDARD in English 7 Apr 87 p 1

[Report by Kihara Waweru entitled: "Libya Spying on Njonjo, Odinga, Rubia"]

[Excerpt] A Libyan diplomat based in Nairobi had given an assignment to a student to write reports on a former minister for constitutional affairs, Mr Charles Njonjo, a former vice-president, Mr Oginga Odinga, and the MP for Starehe, Mr Charles Rubia.

The diplomat, who worked as a charge d'affaires, Mr Wanis Ali Musallati, has fled the country after last Friday's (3 April) disclosure in another case that he had assigned students expelled from Kenyatta University to spy for the Libyan Embassy.

This was revealed by the assistant deputy public prosecutor, Mr Bernard Chunga, during the trial of Richard Nixon Wekesa, charged with having given information concerning the leadership of the Nairobi University Students Union to a foreign power.

The charge, which Wekesa admitted, said giving information to a foreign power was prejudicial to Kenya's interest. He was jailed for 10 years by chief magistrate, Mr H.H. Buch.

Outlining the facts of the case, Mr Chunga said the accused and his three colleagues received a total of 20,330 shillings to write reports on political personalities, whose names were given to them. They included Mr Njonjo, Mr Oginga Odinga, and Mr Charles Rubia. [passage omitted]

Ugandan State Minister's Remarks Criticized

EA072148 Nairobi KNA in English 1740 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Bungoma, 7 April — The minister for foreign affairs, Mr Elijah Mwangale, has criticised Ugandans who came to Kenya to disrupt the country's peace. Mr Mwangale called on all aliens to reciprocate Kenya's hospitality by abiding with the laws of the country.

The minister was refering to recent press reports about anti-Kenya remarks by a Uganda minister of state, Kiiza Besigye, in a Nairobi church during prayers for a Uganda teacher who died at Kisii. He observed that Kenya was doing everything possible to assist the politically-troubled Uganda Government and wondered what the Ugandans really wanted.

Saying that the Uganda Government did not appreciate Kenya's assistance, the minister recalled that nearly all the Mwakenya dissidents had won the sympathy of Uganda Government which had assisted them [to] travel to distant countries.

He added that the Kenya Government would not tolerate any nonsense from a neighbouring country. He however stressed that Kenya will continue to encourage friendly neighbourliness with countries which respected her national integrity.

Mr Mwangale called on police and KANU youth wingers, especially those in border districts, to be more vigilant and screen all foreigners and the unpatriotic Kenyans entering or leaving the country. The minister made the remarks in Bungoma town while addressing a Anu registration baraza [council].

CAR

Bokassa Court Hears Evidence on Bank Accounts

AB031330 Paris AFP in French 1820 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Bangui, 2 Apr (AFP) — Some 15 bank accounts, and possibly more, were opened in Jean-Bedel Bokassa's time in the name of the CAR Government. This fact was established on Thursday by the Bangui criminal court, where the former CAR emperor has been on trial for 4 months. During the 59th hearing, which could not take place on Tuesday as the accused was indisposed, the court's attention was drawn to the fact that various accounts, such as transport claims for state officials, the crown account, the government radio and television account, the FED (European Development Fund) account, and others were opened between 1974 and 1979 in various state-owned banks, and in a number of private institutions in the CAR.

According to officials or directors of these institutions (Banking Union in Central Africa, Central African National Development Bank, International Bank for West Africa...) who came to give evidence in court, these accounts were supplied from various sources, such as international funds (IMF, FED) or monies transferred from one account to another. During their testimony, these officials said that several members of the government at the time were able to draw on these accounts, either individually or through joint signatures. [passage omitted]

For his part, former Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa made the following statement on the issue: "If other accounts were opened at the time, the officials in question did so without my permission or knowledge." Attorney General Gabriel Faustin Mbodou reaffirmed that in the course of these hearings on the misappropriation of public funds, new legal action may be taken against former officials.

CHAD

Libyan Air Force Bombs Ouadi Doum; MIG-21 Downed

AB071915 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1850 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Communique No 64 issued by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command — date and place not given]

[Text] This morning, 7 April 1987, the Libyan Air Force resumed its blind and uncivilized bombing of Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT] positions in Ouadi Doum with unprecedented intensity.

Faithful to its mission, the valiant FANT retaliated energetically, downing a MIG-21 fighter bomber at 0730 local time.

Nothing will prevent the dauntless freedom fighters from ridding our dear fatherland of the Libyan invaders.

Malian President Makes Stopover, Meets Habre

AB071502 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Malian President Moussa Traore has made a 1-hour stopover in Ndjamena en route to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. He landed at Ndjamena International Airport at 1000, and was met on arrival by President El Hadj Hissein Habre, who was accompanied by Mr Korom Ahmed, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation; [name indistinct], vice president of the National Consultative Council and secretary general of the UNIR [National Union for Independence and Revolution] Regional Committee for the city of Ndjamena; Djime Togou, commissioner for information and orientation; and members of UNIR mass organizations.

Among the Malian head of state's entourage were Mr Baye Ag Mohamed, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People, and his minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Modido Modibo Keita. [passage omitted]

After the welcoming ceremony, the two heads of state met in the airport's VIP lounge for talks that lasted more than 45 minutes. Even if the Malian head of state did not make any comments to the press, the discussions undoubtedly concerned the situation in northern Chad. At approximately 1300, President Moussa Traore and his party left our capital after being seen off, just as they were greeted, by patriotic songs sung by political groups' supporters. [passage omitted]

GABON

Government Borrowing From Public, Private Sectors

AB071058 Dakar PANA in English 1030 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Dakar, 6 April (PANA) — The Government of Gabon has decided to borrow from the public sector and the private sector involving businessmen and enterprises operating in country, five billion CFA (300 CFA equals one U.S. dollar). The decision taken at a recent Council of Ministers meeting is aimed at improving the financial situation of the country which according to the Gabonese News Agency (AGP) is due to the decline in oil prices and in the value of the dollar. The amount to be borrowed by the government covers the period 1 May 1987 to 31 Dec 1988 and represents three per cent of net salary and 1.5 percent of total revenue earned by commercial enterprises and businessmen. The loan will be refunded in three years at an eight per cent interest rate per year.

In the meantime, the Gabonese Government has decided to close 10 of the country's diplomatic missions abroad and reduce to the strict minimum staff working in embassies and those working on contract in the civil service.

Gabon's annual budget initially projected at 100 billion CFA has been slashed down to eight billion CFA.

ZAIRE

French Minister Discusses Military Cooperation

AB071211 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0725 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Kinshasa, 6 Apr (AZAP) — French Cooperation Minister Michel Aurillac on 6 April held discussions with General Likulia Bolongo, secretary of state for national defense and territorial security, on the state of military cooperation between France and Zaire. This cooperation, Mr Aurillac told the press, is many-sided. He and the secretary of state discussed issues related to French training of the Zairian Armed Forces [FAZ]. After training the 31st Parachute Brigade, the FAZ, with French assistance and cooperation, are currently recruiting and training soldiers for the 32nd Parachute Brigade. The two figures also discussed possible French assistance in refurbishing certain types of equipment belonging to the Zairians.

Michel Aurillac wrote in the visitors' book at the Department of Defense that "the fraternity of arms between France and Zaire is one of the main elements of friendship between our two peoples."

Meanwhile, within the framework of French-Zairian military cooperation, FAZ Chief of Defense Staff General Eluki Monga Aundu on 6 April received Gen Gastaldi, head of the French defense mission in Zaire. Zaire, Gen Eluki stated, depends heavily on France for the establishment of the newly formed 32nd Parachute Brigade and, in the long term, of the 33d Parachute Brigade, both of which are designed to create an airborne division within the FAZ.

Aurillac on Cooperation, Chad

AB071315 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0815 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Kinshasa, 7 Apr (AZAP) — France will grant Zaire over Fr 500 million in 1987 within the framework of bilateral cooperation. This was announced by French Minister of Cooperation Michel Aurillac following his 6 April audience with Professor Mabi Mulumba, the first state commissioner, at the council building. Aurillac, who declared that Zairian-French cooperation has developed notably in the agricultural, transportation, urban equipment, and industrial sectors, further stated that French participation in Zaire's development increased from Fr 250 million to 500 million from 1985 to 1987.

Mr Aurillac further announced that the French-Zairian commission will meet near the end of June in Paris to initiate a biannual program (1988-1989) for better implementation of bilateral cooperation.

The French minister asserted that the various meetings held during the day with various Zairian personalities made it possible to evaluate all aspects of cooperation between the two countries, including their similar African policy, which seeks to make the African Continent one of peace and stability, with respect for the inviolability of national borders.

In discussing the Chadian situation, Mr Aurillac, who stated that France's desire is to see Chadians living happily in their homeland, maintained that settling the problem of Libya's occupation of the Aozou Strip was based on two preconditions: mutual recognition of the area's legal status by Libyan and Chad and their agreement to present the case to an international court.

He added that France has supplied the Chadian Government and Army with technical means and that it has trained military personnel, thus enabling Chadians to free their country themselves, even though France prefers peaceful solutions to military ones.

Citizen Nyiwa Mobutu, secretary of state for international cooperation, French Ambassador to Zaire Claude Aristide Epervier, and Citizen Kabisi Pene Yemba Milanga, personal under secretary of the first state commissioner, also attended the meeting.

BURKINA FASO

Sankara Returns From 2-Day Visit to Libya

AB080952 Paris AFP in French 0927 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Ouagadougou, 8 Apr (AFP) -- According to an official source, Burkinabe Head of State Captain Thomas Sankara returned to Ouagadougou late in the evening of Tuesday, 7 April, following a 48-hour visit to Libya, where he held talks with the leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The source noted that their talks focused on the Chadian crisis and unspecified bilateral issues.

The source added that President Sankara was deeply moved when he visited the site of Col al-Qadhdhafi's former residence in Tripoli, which was destroyed by the U.S. Air Force in 1986.

The Burkinabe head of state, who visited Libya on the evening of 6 April in the company of his minister of external affairs and cooperation, Leandre Bassole, emphasized the need for revolutionaries to meet to review matters, show solidarity, and remain united.

GHANA

Government Delegation Returns From Havana 3 Apr

AB032119 Accra Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] The 3-member government delegation, which attended the third session of the Ghana-Cuba Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation in Havana, returned to Accra today. This session reviewed the second period of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries under the second protocol signed in 1985. It also approved the program of cooperation for the third session of the joint commission, which covers the areas of health, education and culture, information, sports, fishing, cinematographic industry, economic, and trade cooperation.

The secretary for transport and communications, Mr Kwame Peprah, who led the delegation, said the session was very successful. He said the conclusions truly reflect the present stage of friendliness and brotherliness that exists between the two countries. Mr Peprah, who is cochairman of the joint commission, expressed the hope that qualitative improvement made so far would be maintained and even improved upon when the third protocol comes to be implemented.

Foreign Secretary Asamoah Visits Tehran

For Tehran coverage of the visit to Iran by Foreign Secretary Obed Asamoah, including cooperation talks held with Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and other officials, see the Iran section of the 8 April South Asia *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

IVORY COAST

Houphouet Grants Audience to GUNT's Goukouni

AB072018 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] The head of state granted an audience this morning to Goukouni Oueddei [president of GUNT]. The two men held lengthy private talks which were continued during a luncheon at the Presidential Palace. No details were released on their discussions, but the two men will reportedly meet again to continue their talks, which undoubtedly focus on the present situation in Chad. As we know, Mr Goukouni arrived in Abidjan yesterday evening. In a statement to the press, he clearly said he had come for some sage advice from President Houphouet-Boigny.

MALI

Traore Leaves on Official Visit to Abu Dhabi

AB072009 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] The president, General Moussa Traore, left Bamako this morning for a 3-day official visit to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. President Moussa Traore, who will spend the night in Jedda, Saudi Arabia, is expected in Abu Dhabi tomorrow. In the UAE, President Traore will hold private talks with the amir of Abu Dhabi, His Excellency Shaykh Zayid, who paid an official visit to Mali in 1985.

NIGERIA

Magazine Banned for Political Bureau Report

AB061822 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] The *Newswatch* magazine, a weekly publication, has been proscribed by the Federal Government. The proscription order was announced in Lagos today by the chief of General Staff, Rear Admiral Augustus Aikhomu. The Federal Government noted that *Newswatch* had illegally got the report submitted recently by the Political Bureau and decided to release its confidential contents to the public,ahead of government consideration and decision on the report. It said such an action had prejudiced a balanced consideration of recommendations in the report and could cause confusion and disaffection among the country's diverse groups.

The government noted that despite good advice, *Newswatch* decided to ignore professional ethics by publishing the report, which is now in circulation within and outside the country. It reaffirmed its commitment to fundamental human rights and the freedom of the press but warned that this should not be abused.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the board of directors of the Newswatch Communications Limited, Mr (Imasanfu Umana), has resigned. In a letter to this effect, Mr (Umana) said the recent events in the organization have shown that it was being controlled

by certain board members who, he claimed, would stop at nothing to satisfy their selfish motives. Mr (Umana) recalled that when he was invited to join the company he had hoped to work with a team of gentlemen of honor, integrity, and moral ideals. He said it was with difficulty that he took the decision to resign as chairman and member of the *Newswatch* board of directors.

Editor Starts Hunger Strike

AB071603 Paris AFP in English 1537 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Lagos, April 7 (AFP) -- An assistant editor of *Newswatch* magazine on Tuesday [7 April] went on a hunger strike to protest the government closure of the weekly on Monday. Dele Ojolede, 26, the journalist, said he would drink only water for two weeks and would remain in front of the police-occupied offices of *Newswatch* to call attention to the "unjustifiable and arbitrary act of government."

He and other *Newswatch* employees denied that the government had [word indistinct] them not to publish a panel's recommendations for a form of government to succeed the present military regime, which says it will withdraw in 1990. They said that the government could have seized the copies of the magazine, which were freely sold on Monday. The government cited the premature publication of the report as reason to close the two-year-old magazine.

SENEGAL

Cooperation Talks With Morocco Open in Dakar

AB071834 Dakar PANA in French 1417 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Dakar, 7 Apr (APS-SEN/PANA) -- Cooperation between Senegal and Morocco "will automatically be strengthened by immediately reorganizing the framework of the two countries' fields of cooperation." This was announced yesterday by both Ibrahima Fall and Abdellatif Filali, the Senegalese and Moroccan foreign ministers, at yesterday's opening ceremony of the 10th session of the Senegal-Morocco Interstate Committee.

The Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, who arrived in Dakar yesterday at the head of 15-member delegation, emphasized — as did his Senegalese counterpart — the old and permanent "millennium-long relationship" between Senegal and Morocco. [passage omitted]

For his part, Ibrahima Fall, the Senegalese minister of foreign affairs, recalled the first move made by the two heads of state in March 1981, during Abdou Diouf's visit to Rabat, to reactivate relations between Morocco and Senegal. This led to the ninth session of the Interstate Committee, which was held in Rabat. [passage omitted]

SIERRA LEONE

Former Vice President Questioned on Coup Plot

AB071810 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 7 Apr 87

[From the "News of the African World" program]

[Text] Reports from Sierra Leone say the former vice president, Mr Francis Minah, who was sacked 4 days ago, has been interrogated by police investigating an attempted coup last month. Mr Minah, who is 58, is reported to have been questioned for more than 6 hours. Mr Minah is reported to have been under house arrest since his dismissal. The French news agency, AFP, says the authorities have denied reports that the former president, Mr Siaka Stevens, was also under house arrest.

Minah Imprisoned

AB071843 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] [Passage indistinct] by the country's CID [Criminal Investigation Department]. It was apparently in connection with last month's coup plot allegedly masterminded by M.J.T. Kakai, a former close aide of ex-President Siaka Stevens. Quite a few people have already been (?detained) and questioned in connection with the conspiracy. Now, Francis Minah is facing the humiliation of being locked up in a top security jail, much to the amusement of the other prisoners. From Freetown, Cario Camara cabled this report.

[Begin recording] Last night, Minah was given a top security escort drive from the CID Headquarters to the central prison, Pademba Road. Word had spread around the prison like wildfire because at long last, the man who had the final say, whether to prosecute or not to prosecute, was himself on his way to detention. Reliable sources said the prisoners, who have been kept well behind their cell doors, broke into a chorus of shouting and banging on the doors when the former first vice president was taken into custody.

I asked a senior police officer at the CID Headquarters why Minah was taken into detention, and the officer replied: for further investigations in connection with the coup plan of March 23d. The police officer would not say whether Minah had been implicated in statements already made by some 25 suspects and witnesses who have been interrogated. But I understand that after holding his (?speech) for nearly 3 weeks,apart from having said that he knew about the plan to overthrow or assassinate President Momoh, prime suspect M. T. Kakai began to spill the beans at last.

Reliable sources say Kakai made a 30-minute statement in which he implicated several men in high places, including a foreigner

who is said to hold a Jordanian passport. Reliable sources have yet [words indistinct] quiet. But they have said that the man with the Jordanian passport, but who is widely known to be Palestinian, left Sierra Leone suddenly with his wife and family shortly before the coup plan was nipped in the bud.

One thing the police confirmed to me this afternoon is that one Lebanese man was among those being detained at Pademba Road, which has been cordoned off with armored cars and checkpoints manned by military and special security division paramilitary men. [end recording]

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Pays Official Visit to SRV

For Hanoi media coverage of the visit by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, including his meeting with Council of Ministers Chairman Nguyen Van Linh and the text of their speeches at a 4 April state banquet, see the Vietnam section of the 6 April Asia & Pacific *Daily Report*.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machungo Admits Malawi Troops Patrol Railway

MB071237 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] The Mozambican prime minister, Mr Mario Machungo, has admitted that Malawian troops are being used to patrol the railway line that runs through Mozambique from Malawi to the Indian Ocean. He was speaking in Lisbon during a stopover on his way home from a visit to Europe to seek aid for Mozambique.

Radio RSA's correspondent in Lisbon says the fact that Malawian troops are being used to patrol the railway line shows that the Mozambican Government is now following the same policy in the northern provinces as it has been in the Beira corridor, where Zambian troops are being used to protect the line against Renamo forces.

Our correspondent says there are indications that Nigerian soldiers have arrived in Mozambique to join the 12,000 Zimbabweans and 6,000 troops already there. [sentence as heard] According to our correspondent, there are very few joint operations between the Zimbabwean and Mozambican troops, mainly because of a low military standard of the Mozambicans. He adds that the capital of Zambezia Province, Quelimane, is being guarded by Tanzanian and Zimbabwean forces, which are being directed by Cuban and Soviet military advisers.

Rebelo Interviewed During Moscow Visit

For a Moscow World Service report on an interview with Jorge Rebelo, secretary of the Frelimo Central Committee, during his visit to Moscow marking the 10th anniversary of the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty with the Soviet Union, see the Sub-Sahaharan Africa section of the 7 April Soviet Union *Daily Report*.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Views Conference, Sanctions, Namibia

MB080703 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0010 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Benoni April 7 SAPA — The government was in favour of a major indaba [conference] in which all South Africans would take part in negotiating a constitutional dispensation, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said tonight.

Addressing a meeting of about 600 people in a school hall here, he said a perception had been created that the government had thrown out the Natal indaba. The government was in favour [of] negotiating in the way the Natal indaba had taken place but believed all interested parties should be able to take part.

The protection of minorities should be a part of any agreement so that people would not feel threatened. He said the leader of the National Party in Natal, Mr Stoffel Botha, had pointed this out, but it had been perceived as a rejection of the indaba proposals. The Progressive Federal Party was responsible for creating this false perception.

The government's attitude was not that the matter had been killed but that it should be talked out more fully.

Mr Botha said whites had earned historical rights in South Africa but were willing to share them with blacks. "However, we are not willing to surrender them. We are willing to remove all discrimination and factors which reduce the dignity of people, but we will not hand over to Marxists."

Referring to sanctions, he said South Africans might suffer economic hardship, but by resisting overseas intervention, they would be better off in the long run. "We will have a lifetime to catch up."

Mr Botha said South Africa was willing to take part in discussion with all interested parties in South West Africa/Namibia and Angola in an effort to reach a solution for the region and to "rid it of the Cubans."

Threatens Militant Trade Unions

MB080826 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0700 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Pik Botha has threatened tough action against trade unions if unions do not toe the line. He says the government is very concerned about the increasing militancy of some black trade unions and is giving the matter serious attention. Speaking at a National Party rally in Benoni, the minister said if militant elements in the trade unions continue with what he calls their outrageous and irresponsible demands, it could lead to the end of trade unionism in South Africa.

Commentary Views 'Misery' of African States

MB080543 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dr Leabua Jonathan, who died this week aged 73, was until recently one of a very few remaining African leaders who were still in power after taking over at independence in the late fifties and sixties. Most disappeared from the scene years ago. Chief Jonathan's own turbulent career as prime minister began when Lesotho gained independence in 1966 and only ended 20

years later. But the manner in which he left office was typical of the vast majority: After repeatedly postponing often promised elections he was ousted in a military coup in January last year. He and his ministers were among the lucky ones in the African experience. The coup was peaceful and they were allowed to go into quiet retirement.

The tragedy of modern-day Africa is a tragedy of lost opportunities. How much of the violence and misery of those strife-torn years could have been avoided is a matter of speculation. What is certain is that the retardation and even reversal of development that was set in motion in the 1960's owed a great deal to the persistent attempts, beginning with the drafting of independence constitutions, to impose solutions with too little regard for realities. Whatever the reasons, when the wave of independence broke upon the continent the form it took — modern statehood in the Western mold — proved a disaster.

Neither in their traditional cultural character nor in their socio-economic development were the people equipped to deal with it. The capacity of leaders to resolve conflicting political pressures, aggravated by Africa's special amalgam of high expectations and low level of developmental resources, was limited. And the economic policies that were followed in hopes of introducing a new era of universal prosperity, far from bringing the improvement the people had been promised, resulted in a worsening of conditions. Nationalization sharply reduced economic efficiency and the foreign investment essential for further development. Large-scale appointments of people to positions for which they were not qualified, and attempts to satisfy public demands through radical redistributions of public funds, slowed the economic machinery down still more. So did confrontationist attitudes that caused the loss of whatever white skills had been available. A measure like depressing food prices for the sake of the politically important urban population forced small producers to stick to subsistence farming and most African countries to end up as net food importers.

Even had ethnic hostilities not been present, as they have been in abundance in most African countries, the trend was inevitable. The unrealistic expectations of the people, largely created by the earlier promises of the politicians themselves, could not have been fulfilled even by the most competent leadership and under the most realistic policies.

As it was, the disappointment was intense and its expression violent. The escalating cycle of violence and suppression that followed led sooner or later to a variety of authoritarian governmental forms. Today, after having disregarded for so long the realities of their cultural, social, and economic existence, Africa'speople and leaders face a long and hard struggle back to some form of political organization through which democratic principles and economic progress can be secured.

Transkei Defense Commander Confirms Resignation

MB071329 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1300 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] The commander of the Transkei Defense Force [TDF] has confirmed his resignation, but as Frans Kruger reports, General Zondo Mtirara resigned days before the weekend expulsion of 27 former [Rhodesian] Selous Scouts.

[Kruger] Gen Mtirara told me this morning he had handed in his resignation last Wednesday [1 March], 2 days before the advisers to the TDF were arrested and then deported. The general had earlier described the action as mutiny, and that it had not taken place on his orders. This morning the 36-year-old general would not give reasons for his resignation, which he said had been accepted by the government. He said he was on special leave until he formally handed over his post at the end of the month. He remained in command until then, he said, but he believed the action committee which was reported to be responsible for the expulsions were in effective control of the TDF.

Strike Leads to Closing of Soweto Post Offices

MB071236 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1204 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg, April 7, SAPA — Soweto post offices were closed today as about 4,000 black workers prolonged their strike over an alleged "arrogant attitude" by the regional director and other grievances, a post office spokesman said today.

The spokesman said management and officials of the Post Office and Telecommunications Workers Association (POWA) were engaged in talks today in an effort to resolve the issues.

"The post office is negotiating with officials of POWA to see if complaints can be addressed in a meaningful way," he said.

He, however, said the nature of the complaints differed from one workplace to another and it was difficult to "find the substance of the complaints."

Among other grievances the workers also claim that white, coloured and Indian colleagues were treated with preference while blacks were discriminated against.

The strike began last Thursday [2 April] and it has affected branches in Diepkloof, Orlando, Meadowlands, Midway (Dobsonville) and Chiawelo — all of which were closed today. Soweto is served by eight post offices.

Some workers at the Marshalltown post office also did not turn up for work, the spokesman said.

Information Bureau Issues 7 April Unrest Report

MB080908 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0905 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria April 8 SAPA — The Bureau for Information's unrest report for the period 0001 to 2400 April 7:

"A six-month-old child, Thamare Mthambeka, was burned to death when a group of unknown persons set the home of Mrs Vathiswa Mthambeka on fire in Diepkloof, Soweto. No motive for this incident has thus far been established and police investigations are continuing.

"In Mziname (Bethal) a group of unknown persons threw petrol bombs at the home of the mother of Councillor Thekane. Considerable damage was caused and two black men, Christofel Malubela (18) and a Mr Siba (21) were seriously injured by the attackers when they endeavoured to douse the flames.

"Other reports unrest related incidents comprised isolated incidents of stone throwing at buses and private homes. Damage was reported as minimal."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB080620 [Editorial Report]

CITIZEN: White Unity Unlikely

Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 6 April says in its page 6 editorial: "Those who accept that black nationalism could not be curbed, just as Afrikaner nationalism could not be curbed, are trying to find a solution that will fulfil the aspirations of blacks in general (the wishes of radical bodies like the African National Congress cannot be met, since the demands are for capitulation by the whites and the handing over of the country to one man, one vote black majority rule). A solution will have to come from the ruling National Party, which seeks reform without surrender and alone has the political power to bring about change." *The Citizen* believes "it is futile to call for white unity since there is no way at present of getting whites together when they are so far apart on the fundamental issues of black rights. However, if the ruling party receives a strong mandate, it will be able to demonstrate that the country is on the road that most white South Africans desire."

CITIZEN Critical of UK Support of Worrall

Western governments have "sold themselves on the idea that Dr Denis Worrall, ex-ambassador to Britain, is going to spearhead a wonderful new alliance that will sweep all before it," says the page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 7 April. "One of the reasons we wouldn't vote for Dr Worrall if we were in Helderberg is that the British have a high regard for him. Anyone who is loved by the British, the very same people and government who sold out the whites in Rhodesia, is not for us. We don't want any interference, not by the British government nor any other government, since our future must be decided by South Africans themselves."

STAR: Mediator Needed for SATS Dispute

"As the SA Transport Services (SATS) strike enters its fourth week the SA Railway and Harbour Workers' Union and SATS reveal a disturbingly wide gap in their understanding of each other's problems," notes a page 14 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 7 April. "Both sides have already lost heavily. Workers have forfeited wages and annual bonuses; SATS has a troublesome and growing backlog of freight. There are ugly accusations of intimidation and assault on workers wanting to return to work. Strikers are under threat of dismissal." *The Star* says "the time has come for parties to appoint a mediator, zip up their lips and limit the talking to constructive bargaining."

Too Late for Peaceful Change

Correspondent C. Robertson writes on the same page that whoever wins the Stellenbosch constituency on 6 May "will do so without the vote of Dr Nico Smith," of the black Dutch Reformed Church in Africa. "'I will not participate in any election until there is a government representing all inhabitants of South Africa,' Dr Smith has vowed." "Dr Smith finds it ironic that the Stellenbosch academics now making headlines as 'verligtes' [enlightened thinkers] for renouncing the National Party and the Broederbond [Afrikaner brotherhood] are the very ones who criticised him 12 years ago when he held that the NP [National Party], Broederbond and Dutch Reformed Church were the 'unholy trinity' which were channels not for change but for disaster." "Reluctantly, Dr Smith says it may be too late in the day to hope for peaceful change in South Africa. 'I would be lying if I gave people the impression that there could be peaceful change.'"

BUSINESS DAY on Government Responsibility

"The private sector is learning that bad government, like bad weather, is part of the environment of SA," notes Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 7 April in a page 6 editorial. "The only thing to do is to batten down the hatches when the wind blows foul, and to sail like mad when it blows fair. The need to win the election by spending money offers an opportunity that should not be missed. When it comes to election time, however, it might be sensible to consider that a country which must wrest prosperity from its own government has every right to hold that government responsible for the bad news, even as government covers itself in glory over the good news."

Newspapers Instruments of Propaganda

"The resignation of Dene Smuts, editor of *Fair Lady*, confirms beyond argument that the brief flowering of independent thought in Nasionale Pers [National Press] has come to an end," notes a second editorial on the same page. "There is no longer any political difference to be discerned between Nasionale Pers and Afrikaanse Pers, publishers of *Die Vaderland* whose editor, Harald Pakendorf, was the first victim of the current purge. It is a sad end to the verligte [enlightened] flowering that for a while made the Afrikaans newspapers allies in the struggle to protect our diminishing press freedom. Like the SABC, they are once again mere instruments of propaganda."

CAPE TIMES on PFP Vision of Hope

"In sharp contrast with the contradictions and confusion being generated by senior Nationalist spokesmen about the government's race and constitutional 'policies' and the extraordinary belief in right-wing circles that the discredited theories of Dr Hendrik Verwoerd can be magically revived, the Progressive Federal Party is giving a clear lead to white voters," says a page 10 editorial in Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 3 April. "As the PFP leader, Mr Colin Eglin, said in the city hall this week, a situation in which the moderates from all sections of the community would find each other was now 'unstoppable' — and it would make 'this country what it should be: one of the greatest countries in the world.' This is the vision and real hope that South Africa needs. This is where the future lies — and Mr Eglin, the architect of alliance politics, is providing positive leadership towards it."

SOWETAN on Ciskei Transkei Relations

"The can of worms that is being opened by naked political power

play in the Transkei and Ciskei is just the beginning of more hair-raising incidents from all the so-called independent homelands," says the page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 7 April. "The latest news from the Transkei about the expulsion of Major-General Ron Reid-Daly, a former Rhodesian Selous Scout, is the first indication of the collapse of government in that country. There have been attempts in the Ciskei and now some elements are trying to unseat the seemingly stolid Matanzima brothers. There are simmering problems internally and between the two so-called independent governments. For black leaders who shamelessly employed people like the notorious Selous Scouts, their collapse is only a matter of time — even if it takes rather long to get them out."

NEW NATION on Editor Detention

The page 6 editorial column in Johannesburg *New Nation* in English 2-8 April notes that "Zwlakhe Sisulu, the editor of this newspaper, has now been held for 112 days without trial under the emergency regulations."

RSC's Response To Resistance

An unsigned commentary on page 7 says "the history of the Regional Services Councils (RSC) helps to throw some light on the aims and nature of these new structures. It shows clearly that the RSC's are not a benevolent new gesture from a reformist-minded government. They are a carefully designed response to the growing resistance throughout the country." "Issue-based struggles have recently developed into mass-based struggles such as consumer and rent boycotts. These struggles have, in different ways, posed a direct challenge to the legitimacy and authority of the government." "It was only logical that the government would try to develop a strategy to counter this challenge," and passed the Regional Services Councils Act in June 1985. A group of researchers from the University of the Witwatersrand [Wits] believe that the "RSC's would considerably ease the pressure on the central government by localising conflicts," and the "RSC's would project the image of a new non-racialism in local government." "This skilfully hides their role as an extension of the tricameral parliament, and as a possible cog in the security wheel. 'Deception and repression are the constant companions of "reform",' the Wits academics have warned. It is therefore not at all unlikely that the RSC's fit into this scheme somewhere along the line."

RAPPORT: Government Responsible to Electorate

A page 10 editorial in Johannesburg *Rapport* in Afrikaans on 5 April says if the reality of the South African situation is considered it is understandable that "the majority of voters have already decided to entrust the future of South Africa to the NP." However, this "places a heavy responsibility on the ruling party. While it is not difficult to point out the defects in the parties to the left and to the right of the NP, it is a completely different matter to give assurances as to how the NP itself is going to cope with South Africa's problems." "It is a difficult and thankless task when a great portion of the white electorate is always ready to say: too little too late, or too much too soon. There is no need to mention the mentality in radical black circles to repeatedly condemn any efforts by the government."

RAPPORT: Heunis on Constitutional Negotiations

On page 11 of *Rapport* Anne-Marie Mischke reports on an interview with Chris Heunis, minister of constitutional development and planning, who says that "unlike the opposition parties the NP, in its capacity as ruling party, is not prepared to lay down a complete constitutional model at this time. Such a model must be the result of negotiations." The government is prepared to negotiate with "all political leaders who accept democratic processes and who are prepared to conduct peaceful discussions. The results of these negotiations will eventually be put before the electorate for their approval." However, Heunis points out two problems with negotiations: The intimidation of moderate leaders by revolutionaries hampers such negotiations, and legitimate political leaders do not exist in all black communities. Heunis further points out that "negotiations cannot take place freely and successfully unless there is an atmosphere of stability and law and order. Therefore law and order is necessary to bring about peace, which is a precondition for democratic political processes."

BEELD Compares Zimbabwe to RSA

A page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 6 April says a "development which is unavoidable in Zimbabwe is the tearing up of the Lancaster House agreement under which Zimbabe attained a black majority government with minority protection." "Now that the agreement will be abolished it will not benefit the Zimbabwean whites to look to the UK for help. The UK gave up its power with words of consolation and a misplaced belief in the reasonableness of black Africa." "Minority groups here should know that if we are ever subjected to a tyrannical black government such as Zimbabwe's, all the wise advisers and so-called 'campaigners' for our rights are awfully far away to be able to help us." "There are still many months, perhaps even years of negotiations before us. Any responsible person knows that we must create bearable relationships in the country. But we will have to do that ourselves. It will be fatal to be influenced by others who in the end care very little about South Africa's whites."

CP Representation of AWB

A page 12 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 7 April says it does not believe the allegation that the AWB [Afrikaner Resistance Movement] has 600,000 members in the Transvaal. "If this were so, surely [AWB leader] Eugene Terre' Blanche would have participated in the election." "This weekend Terre' Blanche claimed that approximately 80 percent of the members of the CP in the western Cape are also members of the AWB. This sounds like highly exaggerated talk, but even if the figure is only 50 or 30 percent, it should be a reason for concern for [CP leader] Andries Treurnicht." "Treurnicht did not initially wish to acknowledge such a division in his party, and everyone who was anti-NP was welcome. Now it appears the CP could be representing the AWB in parliament under the CP banner. The fact the AWB is boasting allows one to suspect that it smells victory, and this will indeed be one of the most clever takeovers in South African politics."

NAMIBIAN on Media-Police Relations

The page 11 editorial in Windhoek *The Namibian* in English on 3 April says: "In trying to present an accurate picture of what is happening both in the far north of Namibia as well as what are known as the traditional 'white' farming areas bordering the far north, reporters are met with resistance all the way. When the

army is approached, they state it is a police matter. When the police are approached, they're simply not available. When Nature Conservation is approached on the question of whether any precautions have been taken in areas such as the Etosha Game Reserve, where a number of insurgents are reported to have infiltrated, they refer reporters to the army." "Liason between the media and the police and army alike, is at an all-time low: Both instances are prepared to speak only to those newspapers they view in a favourable light; while the opposition press are considered merely to be 'trouble-makers' and 'irritants'."

Lister Against Permit System

Gwen Lister says in the "Political Perspective" column on page 10 that "in an amendment to Proclamation AG 9 it was stated that no person may enter the areas of Ovambo, Kavango, Eastern Caprivi, Bushmanland or Hereoland East unless they are members of the security forces or permanently resident in the district concerned or unless they are in possession of a permit issued by the police." Lister says the "permit system is based on the racial classification contained in the ID documents of course, and is completely contrary to the interim government's Bill of Rights which speaks out against compulsory racial or ethnic classification."

VII. WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
VIII. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include: International Affairs Inter-African Affairs Central Africa Burundi Cameroon Central African Republic Congo Equatorial Guinea Gabon Rwanda Sao Tome & Principe Zaire East Africa Djibouti Ethiopia Kenya Somalia Tanzania Uganda Indian Ocean Comoros Madagascar Mauritius Seychelles Southern Africa Angola Botswana Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Namibia Republic of South Africa Reunion Swaziland Zambia Zimbabwe Western Africa Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Islands The Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Ivory Coast Liberia Mali Niger Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Togo

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